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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Seventh session
New York, 21 April-2 May 2008
Item 8 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up: urban indigenous peoples and migration

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Summary

The international Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indigenous People and Migration, held in Santiago from 27 to 29 March 2007, invited the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the agencies that organized the meeting to elaborate policy guidelines for governments and local authorities to assist in the development of public policies related to the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in urban areas. As agreed by the Permanent Forum at its sixth session and by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues at its 2007 annual meeting, UN-Habitat has started implementing that recommendation. The first of the planned series of policy guides to urban indigenous peoples' issues will be on housing. The guide is expected to contribute to the more effective realization of indigenous peoples' housing rights and secure tenure in the urban setting.

UN-Habitat has several policy instruments and programme activities that are relevant to indigenous peoples, climate change challenges and mitigation. The Programme's new Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization and the advocacy work of the recently established Sustainable Urban Development Network focus on urban governance, decentralization and environmental issues, looking at how climate change impacts human settlements and how to adapt cities and local governments, with the participation of civil society, to be more responsive to climate challenges.

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The Governing Council of UN-Habitat revised its resolution on sustainable development of Arctic cities at its last session in April 2007. Under that mandate, UN-Habitat is currently exploring partnerships with the Arctic Council and other stakeholders, looking at climate change issues and impacts on Arctic communities, which to a large extent are made up of indigenous peoples.

I. Response to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum at its fourth and fifth sessions

1. In fulfilment of the recommendation made by the Permanent Forum at its fourth and fifth sessions, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, organized the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration. The summary report of the meeting was submitted to the Permanent Forum at its sixth session and has been made available on the websites of UN-Habitat and other participating organizations.[1] In addition, a print publication with a CD containing the full account of the meeting (all papers, presentations, deliberations and recommendations) has been published by UN-Habitat.[2]

B. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum at its sixth session

2. In recognizing the challenges related to urbanization and indigenous peoples, at its sixth session the Permanent Forum noted the outcome of the above-mentioned expert group meeting and agreed to its recommendations. The meeting invited the co-organizers to consider the elaboration of guidelines for governments and local authorities to assist in the development of public policies related to indigenous peoples and their challenges faced in urban areas (Expert Group Meeting report, para. 41). In response to this invitation by the meeting and recommendation of the Permanent Forum at its sixth session, and as requested by the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues at its annual meeting in 2007, held in Montreal, Canada from 17 to 19 September 2007;[3] and in line with the newly adopted United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (see resolution 61/295, annex), UN-Habitat, through the Inter-Agency Support Group, has begun to coordinate the elaboration of the requested policy guidelines. They are proposed to be developed in the form of brief policy guides for the following thematic areas: (a) employment and local economic development; (b) education; (c) health; (d) transition/settlement services; (e) cultural and linguistic continuity — identities — ethnic mobility; (f) human security (particularly for indigenous women and youth); and (g) housing. The different policy guides will be produced by relevant United Nations agencies and, where appropriate, will be complemented with practical toolkits and training materials to facilitate implementation through local authorities.

3. The first in the planned series of policy guides to urban indigenous peoples' issues will be on housing. Prepared by UN-Habitat and the Office of the United

[1] See http://www.unhabitat.org/unhrp.

[2] Copies can be ordered from UN-Habitat under the title "Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration — report and full account of the International Expert Group Meeting, 27-29 March 2007, Santiago, Chile" (HS/966/07E).

[3] See report of the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples (Montreal, 17-19 September 2007), para. 28.

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, an advance draft of the policy guide to Urban Indigenous Peoples Housing will be submitted to the Permanent Forum at its seventh session. The guide, which draws on the 2005 report of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme on indigenous peoples' right to adequate housing[4] and other existing sources, is expected to contribute to the more effective realization of indigenous peoples' housing rights and secure tenure in the urban setting. It is planned that the policy guide series, including the finalized policy guide to urban indigenous peoples housing, will be launched at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Nanjing, China, in November 2008.

II. Response to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general under one or more items of the Permanent Forum's mandate

4. The work of UN-Habitat on indigenous peoples issues is in response to and mandated by the recently adopted United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, of which articles 21 and 22 state that indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security; that States should take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions; that particular attention should be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities; that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development; and that in particular indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

III. Obstacles to implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum or other policies relevant to indigenous peoples

5. As in previous years, the main obstacle that UN-Habitat faces in implementing policies relevant to indigenous peoples is inadequacy of staff resources and lack of funds. For example, implementation of resolution 20/8 of the 2005 Governing Council of UN-Habitat on the sustainable development of Arctic cities could not be implemented for that reason.

[4] Available at http://www.unhabitat.org/unhrp.

IV. Other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

6. The importance of the above-mentioned resolution 20/8, which makes particular reference to challenges faced by urban indigenous communities in the Arctic, has not diminished. This became evident at the 2007 meeting of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, at which that resolution was revised and reissued as resolution 21/5 (for details, see endnote).[5] Fundraising efforts for the implementation of this resolution are under way.

V. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the seventh session, "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

7. Under its Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization and through the recently initiated Sustainable Urban Development Network, UN-Habitat is streamlining climate change issues throughout the agency's programmes, also linking in with its work on indigenous peoples' living conditions.

8. The increased efforts of UN-Habitat in the area of climate change are derived from the Habitat Agenda, which notes as its goal sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. The Sustainable Urban Development Network responds to this by focusing on enhancing climate change mitigation and preparedness of cities in developing countries, including migration and local economic development. The Network takes note of the impact of climate change on human settlements and aims at building capacity in local governments and providing support for the preparation of policies and preventive measures against potential negative climate change impacts. Here the involvement of civil society and the

[5] In resolution 21/5 on the sustainable development of Arctic cities, the Governing Council noted with concern that the development of human settlements of the far north and the Arctic region was impeded by severe climatic conditions coupled with environmental pollution and a decrease in the number of indigenous people and their growing vulnerability; acknowledged the special need to provide adequate shelter for the indigenous people of the Arctic region and the need to ensure the sustainable development of human settlements in that region; and welcomed the fruitful work of the Arctic Council in promoting the cooperation, coordination and joint action of stakeholder countries of the Arctic region, including principles relating to the protection of the environment and the health of the indigenous population and the improvement of the social and economic conditions of Arctic communities. In the resolution the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to assist in raising the awareness of the international community of the sustainable development challenges of the far north and the Arctic region, including those faced by the indigenous people residing in those areas, and further invited the Executive Director to apply for observer status with the Arctic Council, as well as to deepen cooperation and consultations with other relevant partners, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the North-North network and other stakeholders, on the sustainable development of cities and other human settlements and the promotion of improved shelter infrastructure in the far north and the Arctic region, as well as on the creation of favourable living conditions for the indigenous people of that area.

participation of migrants and vulnerable groups, including urban indigenous peoples, are of high importance.

9. Cross-cutting themes in the context of the Sustainable Urban Development Network are: the built environment; socio-economic development, livelihood and urban poverty; governance; health; gender equality; environment (including biodiversity); water and sanitation; peace (including migration issues); energy and economy (including effects on local economic development); and rural-urban linkages that are important in light of the climate change challenge and disaster mitigation, considering effects on food security and migration, among others.

10. Further, as a response to the UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 21/5 on the sustainable development of Arctic cities, the agency is exploring partnerships with the Arctic Council and its partners and stakeholders, looking at climate change issues and what impact they have on Arctic communities, which to a large extent are made up of indigenous peoples.

11. During the 1980s and 1990s, UN-Habitat produced a series of publications and contributed to research on building materials and innovative construction technologies.[6] UN-Habitat also coordinated the Network of African countries on local building materials and technologies that focused on capacity-building and exchange of knowledge. In the light of new challenges brought about by recent climate change issues, UN-Habitat is planning to revisit its existing materials and resources from the perspective of their relevance to climate change, and the complex issue of deforestation for housing purposes and its effect on biodiversity, which again affects indigenous peoples. This scoping exercise is expected to identify gaps and needs for the update of existing UN-Habitat documents.

12. In addition to the above, UN-Habitat is exploring the following interventions on climate change and its effects on shelter: site selection for new housing development; planning of housing estates; construction processes (including materials, technologies); slum upgrading and urban rehabilitation; management of housing estates and slum areas (for example, public transport systems, waste management, fuel use, water management); strategies, guidelines and capacity-building for climate change mitigation (for example, advocacy through the UN-Habitat Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization and the Sustainable Urban Development Network); financial incentives, such as punitive taxation; and funding sources for implementing climate mitigation activities, such as carbon credits.

VI. List of conferences and other meetings to be held by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme regarding indigenous issues in 2008-09

13. The following are the conferences and meetings on indigenous issues:

(a) Expert group meeting on the status of the policy guides to urban indigenous peoples' issues, parallel to the seventh session of the United Nations

[6] See UN-Habitat, Building materials and construction technologies: annotated UN-Habitat bibliography, 2003, available at http://www.unhabitat.org/housing.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 2008), under the umbrella of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues;

(b) Special event at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, Nanjing, China, November 2008, with the Inter-Agency Support Group, to launch the urban indigenous peoples policy guide series;

(c) Event at the twenty-second session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, to be held in Nairobi in 2009.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Summary

The present document contains information provided by the following four Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat: the Statistics Division; the Division for the Advancement of Women; the Division for Public Administration and Development Management; and the Division for Sustainable Development. Each Division provides an overview of their activities in relation to indigenous peoples. The secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which is part of the Division for Social Policy and Development, will provide its report to the Forum in a separate document.

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I. United Nations Statistics Division

1. The United Nations Statistics Division within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat will continue playing its role in the collection and dissemination of data relevant to the analysis differentials of well-being between indigenous peoples and the rest of the population in countries or areas that will be collecting data on ethnicity. The United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994, help countries in producing data on indigenous and ethnic groups in a country by providing guidelines on: relevance, impartiality and equal access; professional standards and ethics; accountability and transparency; prevention of misuse; cost-effectiveness; confidentiality; national coordination; and international standards. The Fundamental Principles, therefore, underscore good practices to follow in collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating data on indigenous populations.

2. The current work of the Statistics Division relates mostly to the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, in which the Division is encouraging countries to conduct censuses at least once between 2005 and 2014. The Division is cognizant that at its sixth session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in paragraph 123 of the report on the session,[1] called on the Statistics Division to support efforts to collect and disseminate data on indigenous populations. Many countries are expected to collect information pertaining to ethnicity and indigenous peoples. It is our belief that with the proactive promotion of the census by the Statistics Division, many more countries will carry out censuses during this period compared with the number that did so during the 2000 round.

3. A census is a major source of socio-economic and demographic information relevant to the analysis of the well-being of indigenous peoples vis-à-vis the rest of the population in a country. The information is usually collected for the whole country, implying that there are results for small area domains. This, in turn, facilitates the analysis and dissemination of data at small administrative levels useful for informed decision-making and planning. This is because in most countries the census is a complete enumeration. The census is an essential vehicle for collecting varied information related to indigenous populations covering different topics. This means that at the analysis stage, many different variables can be cross-tabulated for a given reference period.

4. The following are some of the relevant topics which may be collected by countries in a census: classification of the population in the country by ethnicity, religion and language, which are attributes that can assist, in some countries, in identifying indigenous peoples; age, sex, geographical and internal migration characteristics; international migration characteristics; household and family characteristics; demographic and social characteristics; fertility and mortality; educational characteristics; economic characteristics; disability characteristics; and agriculture, among others. An expanded list of population and housing census topics appears in paragraph 2.16 of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*[2] (also available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/docs/P&R_%20Rev2.pdf).

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

[2] Statistical Papers, No. 67/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).

5. In 2007, the Statistics Division published the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2* which is used as a reference by national statistical/census offices for guidance on the collection, tabulation and dissemination of census data. The publication is used worldwide. The revision includes a new section dedicated exclusively to indigenous peoples and is available on the Statistic Division's website (see para. 4 above).

6. The Statistics Division has a proactive programme on the 2010 world population and housing censuses. Among other things, the Division organizes training workshops in different regions on various census subjects. In 2007, the Division organized five workshops on cartography and census management. In 2008, the Division is planning to organize about seven workshops on population and housing censuses covering data capture, editing, processing and analysis. The workshops are designed to be flexible so as to include modules on data collection on special topics, such as ethnicity. An interregional adviser on censuses will be available to provide technical assistance to countries at their request. This service will be complemented by assistance from regular staff members in the Statistics Division.

7. Another key activity in the area of data collection and dissemination that is relevant to indigenous peoples is the regular collection and dissemination of data on ethnicity, language and religion. After a country has conducted a population and housing census, the Statistics Division sends questionnaires to countries or areas requesting basic information, among others, on national and/or ethnic groups, language and religion disaggregated by sex. Such data are processed, published and disseminated worldwide and are made available on the Division's web page.[3]

II. Division for the Advancement of Women

8. The following information is from the Division for the Advancement of Women regarding the sixth session and preparation for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

9. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women continues to review and address the situation of indigenous women in reporting States parties. During its thirty-seventh (15 January to 2 February 2007), thirty-eighth (14 May to 1 June 2007) and thirty-ninth (23 July to 10 August 2007) sessions, the Committee raised the issue of indigenous women in a constructive dialogue and in the concluding comments of those States parties that had indigenous peoples among their population, namely, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Suriname (see the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly (A/62/38)).

[3] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/default.htm. The website is scheduled to be updated in the second quarter of 2008.

Commission on the Status of Women

10. The Commission on the Status of Women continues to address the situation of indigenous women primarily through its work on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (see A/55/341). At the Commission's fifty-first session, from 26 February to 9 March 2007, the situation of indigenous girls was addressed in a high-level round table on the priority theme: "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child". The situation of indigenous women was addressed in an interactive expert panel on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at the national and international levels. Summaries of those events can be found on the Division's website.[4]

11. Merike Kokajev, a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, participated in the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She spoke on behalf of the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum when she addressed the fifty-first session of the Commission in February 2007.

12. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to participate in and contribute to the work of the Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

III. Division for Public Administration and Development Management

13. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Socio-economic Governance and Management Branch, is in contact with indigenous mayors and institutions in Ecuador that managed to develop a concrete participatory platform to handle the challenges of urban-rural relations, the municipal management aspects of local development and environmental issues faced by indigenous people. The experience resulting from a few indigenous local administrations in Ecuador indeed demonstrates their stewardship in balancing local development goals in a participatory manner, with lessons that could be applicable to other local indigenous realities in other regions of the world. In addition, the Socio-economic Governance and Management Branch is also in the process of developing participatory planning strategies, tools and techniques of planning and budgeting that can contribute to building socio-economic governance capacities relevant to local governments administered by and/or for the indigenous community.

[4] See http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm.

IV. Division for Sustainable Development

Indigenous peoples and the Major Groups Programme

14. Broad public participation in implementation is an essential prerequisite of sustainable development. Indigenous peoples and their communities constitute one of the nine major group sectors recognized by Agenda 21[5] as essential partners in the advancement of sustainable development. Only through their full participation will sustainable development practices occur on their lands and be sustained in their cultural, social, economic and physical well-being.

15. Since the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1992, indigenous peoples and the other major group sectors have been participating as partners in the formulation of sustainable development policies and in their implementation. The meetings of the Commission have provided innovative spaces for the participation of non-governmental actors, with the overall purpose of informing the Commission's decision-making processes.

16. Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, a number of multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development were launched that are working with and/or for indigenous communities at the local, regional and global levels to address issues related to water, agricultural heritage, land and biotrade development.

17. Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations participated actively in the fifteenth session of the Commission and its intergovernmental preparatory meeting in 2007. The Chair's summary of the fifteenth session of the Commission[6] calls upon governments to take action to encourage closer cooperation and dialogue among indigenous people and local communities and other key stakeholders in order to promote effective voluntary business and consumer actions to enhance sustainable consumption and production, as well as full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work (para. 23 (j)) and to promote the participation and awareness of all major groups in addressing climate change since its impacts affect all sectors of society (para. 33 (f)). For more information on major groups' participation in the fifteenth session of the Commission, visit the Commission's website.[7]

18. At its sixteenth session, to be held in New York from 5 to 16 May 2008, the Commission on Sustainable Development will review progress in implementing sustainable development commitments outlined in Agenda 21,[5] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[8] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for

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[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 9* (E/2007/29, chap. I, annex).

[7] See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/mg/mg_ipm_msd.htm.

[8] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[9] in relation to agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification as well as Africa. The Commission will also review decisions on water and sanitation made at its thirteenth session. Indigenous peoples' organizations have been invited to contribute to the sixteenth session of the Commission by submitting written inputs to the Secretary-General's reports; providing examples of case studies to be included in the Commission's matrix and the sustainable development case studies database; and preparing an official discussion paper through the coordination of a steering group of indigenous organizations led by Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) and the Indigenous Environmental Network to outline indigenous peoples' views related to the thematic cluster. The Indigenous Peoples' Discussion Paper is available on the Commission's website in all official languages of the United Nations.[10]

19. Indigenous peoples' organizations have also been invited to contribute to and participate in the activities of the sixteenth session of the Commission, including:

(a) Two dedicated major groups' multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions;

(b) One high-level dialogue session with major groups and Ministers;

(c) Thematic panel discussions;

(d) Regional discussions;

(e) Small Island Developing States Day;

(f) Final statements during the closing plenary;

(g) Partnerships Fair;

(h) Learning Center;

(i) Side events.

In addition, indigenous peoples' organizations were invited to participate in the five regional implementation meetings held in preparation for the review session of the sixteenth session of the Commission.

20. In addition to the process leading to the sixteenth session of the Commission, the Division for Sustainable Development has invited indigenous peoples' organizations to contribute to the Marrakech Process through participation in international expert meetings, such as the third International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, held from 26 to 29 June 2007 in Stockholm. Representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations also participated in the high-level event on the theme "The future in our hands: addressing the leadership challenge of climate change", held on 24 September 2007.[11]

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[9] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.III.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_sdissues_major_groups.htm.

[11] See http://www.un.org/webcast/climatechange/highlevel/.

21. The Division for Sustainable Development makes limited funding available to indigenous people and other major group participants to enable their participation in meetings of the Commission. Three representatives nominated by the indigenous people's sector received funds to participate in the fifteenth session of the Commission in 2007, and three more will receive funds to participate in activities related to the sixteenth session in 2007-2008. The Division for Sustainable Development maintains a web page dedicated to the indigenous peoples' sector.[12]

Commission on Sustainable Development partnerships working with and/or for indigenous communities

22. The following is a summary of some Commission on Sustainable Development registered partnerships that have specifically indicated a relationship with or activities involving indigenous communities. For each partnership a brief summary of the objectives is provided, along with the specific references to work with indigenous communities, which have been updated to reflect recent activity within the past year. Websites and other relevant links are also provided for further reference.

Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes

23. Surging from a pressing environmental need, this partnership is being implemented by the indigenous non-governmental organization Yachay Wasi (based in New York City, the United States of America, and in Cuzco, Peru) to assess and stop the growing chemical contamination of four Andean mountain lakes and recover the biological diversity of the area. The contamination of those lakes has been a growing problem over the past few years, more so for the communities that depend on their waters:

(a) There are 36 indigenous communities living near the lakes, with an estimated population of 25,518 inhabitants in 2002;

(b) The project is being implemented in a rural area of the Peruvian Andes, mainly in lakes Acopia and Pomacanchi, by Yachay Wasi, a small indigenous NGO based locally and also in the United States of America. The village of Acopia in Peru is the birthplace of Luis Delgado Hurtado, co-founder and president of Yachay Wasi, who now resides in Cuzco, Peru. He speaks Quechua and is of Inca heritage. He has been able, after consultations, to obtain prior and informed consent from project beneficiaries who are also indigenous and include local authorities;

(c) Yachay Wasi has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and the initiative has been registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development. This has enabled it to increase its contacts and support at the international level;

(d) This non-governmental organization has benefited from the valuable support of the Rotary International in the United States of America and Australia, which enabled the launch of the first phase of the project in September 2007. The project will be accomplished mostly by local indigenous workers. As part of the project, Acopia will be the first village in which a new septic tank and laundry

[12] See http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/about_mgroups/amg_indigenous_main.htm.

facilities will eventually be built. This scenario may be duplicated in other areas of the world in which indigenous peoples reside.[13]

Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America

24. This partnership aims to promote the use of renewable energy sources and clean technologies in Central America in a sustainable manner and to make energy services more accessible to the poor, particularly to those in rural areas. Increased utilization of renewable energy in the national and local energy mix, the introduction of new energy and environmental technologies, the utilization of clean development mechanism potential, better energy sector management and increased access to energy services are the expected results of the partnership. The partnership has benefited from the generous support of Finland and Austria in cooperation with the Central American Commission of Environment and Development and the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System. Since its launch in 2002, 31 European and 33 Central American companies and institutions have joined the partnership, which supports 119 projects. Several projects have benefited from the active participation of indigenous communities, in particular in Guatemala and Panama, which has added to the sustainability and the potential of replication of the project, including:

(a) Photovoltaic electrification projects, which have been developed in two Kuna Yala Indian communities in Panama, Ogobsucun and Ustupu, with benefits to approximately 3,585 inhabitants;

(b) Six Maya Indian villages in Guatemala have also received support to install photovoltaic electrification.[14]

Equator Initiative

25. The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, civil society, business, Governments and indigenous communities designed to support local livelihoods and reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by fostering, supporting and strengthening community partnerships. It was designed by recognizing that the world's greatest concentration of biological wealth is found in tropical developing countries that are beset by acute poverty. In those regions, the loss of biodiversity is accelerating as poverty is increasing. There are many innovative and effective ways through which indigenous and other local communities are rising to those challenges. However, these innovations remain largely unknown. Whether for food, medicine, shelter or income-generation, the groups are using their biological resources in a sustainable way to improve their livelihoods.

26. Winners of the Equator Prize, an international award that recognizes outstanding local efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, have included several indigenous community projects in their prize winners in 2004 and 2006, mainly in Guatemala, Mexico and Colombia.

[13] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1305.html and http://www.yachaywasi-ngo.org/lakesproject.htm.

[14] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/182.html and http://www.sgsica.org/energia.

27. Equator Ventures, aimed at offering enterprise development support to local communities, has also provided loan assistance since 2005 to projects, with the participation of indigenous communities in Guatemala, Chile and Bolivia.[15]

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

28. The overall goal of the project is to identify and safeguard globally important agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalysing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.

29. The attention to local knowledge systems is opportune in view of the increasing recognition that is being paid to indigenous peoples and to the effective involvement of local and indigenous communities in decision-making processes, in accordance with article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity[16] and other human rights.

30. Natural and cultural heritage have separately been the subject of much attention over the recent decades through Man and Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its designation of, and support to, biosphere reserves and the designation of outstanding sites and protected areas under the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.[17] However, this initiative aims to increase recognition of the combined cultural and natural agricultural heritage that is maintained in outstanding agricultural systems, including the landscape, in situ conservation of species, knowledge and management systems and the often unique and renowned produce of such systems.[18]

Land Alliances for National Development

31. Land Alliances for National Development, or LAND Partnerships, constitute a global initiative to alleviate rural poverty by strengthening country level collaboration among state, civil society, bilateral and international stakeholders. This collaboration is needed to: (a) achieve participatory dialogue; (b) improve policy formulation; (c) establish joint action to secure resource tenure for households with user rights; and (d) increase access to land by the landless and near-landless.

32. The International Land Coalition (Italy) serves as the coordination mechanism of the partnership and works to:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to be effective partners inside a LAND Partnership;

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[15] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/40.html and http://www.equatorinitiative.org.

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

[18] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1153.html and http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/agll/giahs.

(b) Support the logistic requirements for community participation in dialogue and in land policy formulation;

(c) Ensure that LAND Partnerships benefit from and take into consideration the lessons learned and the implications of changes for traditional organizations, pastoralists/herders, women and special populations, including indigenous peoples;

(d) Support government land institutions in partnership with target communities;

(e) Increase secure access to land by the landless and near-landless, including women, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.

33. The membership of the Coalition has grown in number to include a much wider set of civil society partners, including organizations of farmers, women, landless peoples, indigenous peoples, NGOs and other community-based organizations, in over 35 countries.

34. One example of programme activity that directly involves an indigenous community is Promoting Natural Resources Management by Indigenous Communities in the Ngovayang Forest (Cameroon).[19]

Great Apes Survival Project

35. The main objective of this partnership is to lift the threat of imminent or medium-term extinction faced by the four main kinds of great apes (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans). It identifies and supports income-generating initiatives for the benefit of communities living in and around great ape habitats and protected areas, with due consideration for indigenous communities and to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous people in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid with international support.[20]

Andean Biotrade programme of Andean Community, Andean Development Corporation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

36. The general objectives of the Andean Biotrade programme are:

(a) To promote trade and investment in biological resources in the Andean region with the aim of supporting the objectives of the Andean biodiversity strategy and contribute to sustainable development in the region;

(b) To support the development of biotrade in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) through regional actions that complement the national Biotrade programmes.

37. This partnership contributes to poverty alleviation, fosters local and national development, and ensures mechanisms of benefit sharing by generating tangible

[19] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/36.html and http://www.landcoalition.org.

[20] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/43.html and http://www.unep.org/grasp/.

economic, social and environmental benefits to people living in biodiversity-rich areas. It also strengthens the role of local actors such as NGOs, local and indigenous communities, academia, and the private sector. [21]

New Ventures Biodiversity Investor Forum for the Andean and Amazonian region

38. The Andean Development Corporation, the World Resources Institute and the Biotrade initiative of UNCTAD have entered into a partnership to support existing and start-up small- and medium-sized biobusinesses from the Andean and Amazonian regions, to access credit and venture capital to overcome their difficulties in obtaining long-term finance. It aims to increase priority for biobusiness development in agendas of government, the private sector, local and indigenous communities, donors and other relevant stakeholders.[22]

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[21] For more information see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/251.html, http://www.biotrade.org, http://www.caf.com and http://www.comunidadandina.org.

[22] For further information see: http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/83.html, http://www.biotrade.org, http://www.new-ventures.org and http://www.caf.com.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Seventh session
New York, 21 April-2 May 2008
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Summary

The present report contains brief information statements from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Public Information, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Council of Europe and the Asian Development Bank regarding their activities in relation to indigenous peoples' issues.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs points out that, to date, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has made no recommendations that directly relate to the Office, while the Department of Public Information states that it works closely with the Permanent Forum in terms of producing materials and providing support for disseminating information on indigenous peoples and their issues. WFP outlines the support it provides to indigenous peoples in regard to the effects of climate change and the Council of Europe outlines its work on data collection and disaggregation. The Asian Development Bank states that it focuses its work on capacity-building projects and technical assistance projects in order to provide equitable opportunities for indigenous peoples.

* E/C.19/2008/1.

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I. Information from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

1. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reviewed the recommendations emanating from the previous six sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Office notes that none of the recommendations are expressly addressed to its office, although that is not entirely surprising. The mandate of the Office is essentially that of ensuring effective inter-agency coordination in humanitarian emergencies and it does not, as a rule, implement projects and programmes that would be aimed at specific categories of beneficiaries, including indigenous peoples.

2. That is not to say that the Office does not undertake activities that may have a bearing on indigenous peoples. In particular, one of the Office's tasks is to ensure that in a given humanitarian setting the protection and assistance concerns of indigenous peoples (as well as those of other groups, such as women, children, older persons, etc.) are taken into account in needs assessments and, in turn, addressed in the overall humanitarian response (i.e., in the programmes and activities of operational agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) etc.). This is not a task that would be undertaken by the Office's field offices on a routine basis and as such does not necessarily merit special attention in the context of the Permanent Forum.

II. Information from the Department of Public Information

A. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the Department under one or more areas of the Forum's mandate/agenda

3. In the report on its sixth session (E/2007/43), the Permanent Forum does not include any recommendations directed to the Department of Public Information. Recommendations addressed to the Department by the Permanent Forum at previous sessions are already reflected in the Forum's recommendations database.[1]

4. In chapter I, paragraph 100, of the report on its third session (E/2004/43), the Permanent Forum stated that:

> The Forum welcomes the preparation of daily press releases in English, French and Spanish on the discussions of the Forum during its session. The Forum requests the Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Forum, to:
>
> (a) Ensure the widest distribution of the press releases;
>
> (b) Develop an overall strategy to fulfil the mandate of the Forum to disseminate information on indigenous peoples and their issues.

The Department produced a number of new materials for the Permanent Forum in 2007, including a new masthead, a poster and press kit covers. The Department also updated the text of the main brochure of the Permanent Forum and facilitated the

[1] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/recommendations.htm.

translation of a new brochure, which was reprinted in several languages. A press kit was produced for the Forum's sixth session in May 2007, consisting of an advance media advisory, a press release, two background papers on key themes of the session and a list of potential interviewees. The press kit was translated into French and Spanish and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum also made it available electronically on its website and distributed it to the press and delegates at the sixth session. The press kit was also translated into Portuguese for local distribution in Rio de Janeiro by the United Nations Information Centre.

5. Guidance for the promotion of the sixth session of the Permanent Forum was sent to United Nations information centres. The Department of Public Information organized four press conferences and arranged more than 20 interviews with the BBC News programme Asia Today, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, ABC Radio, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the Voice of America (radio and television) and the Spanish news agency EFE. Highlights of the media coverage for the session included significant coverage of the opening press conference, most of which were reproduced material from the press kit, including 75 placements of an Associated Press article (in *The Guardian*, the *International Herald Tribune* and on the website of Al Jazeera, among others). Further media coverage included approximately 15 articles in English and Spanish on the closing session of the Permanent Forum and approximately 40 articles in Spanish throughout the session.

6. In August 2007, the Department of Public Information organized a press conference with indigenous leaders regarding the status of negotiations on the then draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A media advisory was drafted and circulated to United Nations correspondents and relevant media contacts.

7. For the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August 2007, a media advisory and press release were drafted and disseminated. An information note was sent to all United Nations information centres regarding the Day, which included the press materials mentioned above and an update on the status of the then draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its upcoming consideration by the General Assembly. The Department provided television and photographic coverage of special events at Headquarters on the Day. Interviews were arranged with indigenous representatives for the radio service of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea Radio (Radio UNMEE) and Radio Corrientes (Argentina), as well as for Radio Adelaide and the Australian Financial Review at the request of the United Nations Information Centre in Canberra. Press coverage included the publication of a message by the Secretary-General for the Day in national newspapers, including the daily *El Peruano* in Peru. The Department conducted media monitoring of the coverage of the Day, and press clippings were compiled and sent to the secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

8. The United Nations Information Centre in Bogota held a press conference to mark the Day, in which representatives of the Awá, Kofanes, Arhuaca and Cauca peoples participated, among others. This event was covered by major national media outlets. Information centres also carried out activities to promote the Day in Argentina, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago.

9. The Department of Public Information prepared a media advisory and guidance to information centres in advance of the consideration of the then draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General

Assembly in mid-September 2007. On the day of the vote on the then draft Declaration (13 September), a media stakeout was arranged outside the General Assembly Hall so that delegates and indigenous representatives could speak to the press. The adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 was covered by all major international wire services and several national wire services. Highlights of the coverage include an Associated Press article quoting the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum and Government representatives, which was carried in the *International Herald Tribune*; a news piece in *The New York Times*; BBC World Service Radio and BBC World Television pieces using excerpts from indigenous representatives at the stakeout; and many articles in prominent Canadian and Australian media. An analysis of press coverage and a selection of press clippings were compiled and sent to the secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

10. In October 2007, the Department of Public Information arranged two interviews with United Nations Radio (English and Spanish) for the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples during his visit to Headquarters to attend the meetings of the Third Committee. The Special Rapporteur also took part in a live video talk with students and educators on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples via the CyberSchoolBus website of the Department (http://cyberschoolbus.un.org).

11. The Department is currently working on producing a print version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in all official languages of the United Nations, which will be ready for distribution before the Forum's seventh session in April 2008. Press and information materials will also be disseminated to promote the seventh session.

B. Response to recommendations addressed to two or more agencies or the United Nations system in general under one or more items of the Forum's mandate/agenda

12. In chapter I, paragraph 43 of the report on its third session (E/2004/43), the Permanent Forum recommended that the Department of Public Information: (a) encourage the dissemination of information in indigenous languages at the local level, concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women; (b) encourage and support the training of indigenous women in human rights and the rule of law; and (c) provide technical assistance to Governments to establish the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women. The Department's Dag Hammarskjöid Library organizes annual training sessions in English and Spanish covering online access to United Nations information for participants of non-governmental organizations attending the sessions of the Permanent Forum.

C. Focal point on indigenous issues

13. An Information Officer in the Palestine, Decolonization and Human Rights Section of the Strategic Communications Division is the focal point for indigenous issues within the Department of Public Information. The focal point maintains a high level of direct collaboration with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in

order to develop effective communications strategies to promote the work of the Permanent Forum and to disseminate information to the press and the public on indigenous issues.

D. Information regarding the goals, objectives and Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

14. The Department of Public Information organized its tenth annual United Nations student conference on human rights from 5 to 7 December 2007 under the theme "Recognizing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" in support of the goals of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Student leaders attending the conference, including indigenous students, had the opportunity to study the topic in-depth, as well as to develop their skills in the areas of public speaking, team and consensus-building, negotiating, research and drafting.

E. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum

15. In relation to the special theme of the seventh session, "Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges", the Department of Public Information will explore integrating related material into its recently launched website "Gateway to the UN System's Work on Climate Change".[2] This website highlights the wide-ranging work of the United Nations system on climate change and makes it easier for Internet users to retrieve information on the work of the United Nations in this area.

III. Information from the World Food Programme

16. Climate change is linked with increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events, more frequent disease outbreaks and reduced agricultural yields in low latitude countries. Its impacts are likely to undermine hard-won gains against hunger and poverty, including by increasing vulnerabilities or creating new ones.

17. Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable because they often live in hazard-prone areas and their livelihoods rely on climate-sensitive sectors. Climate change may also disrupt traditional lifestyles and settlement patterns of indigenous peoples. These changes are likely to further affect their nutritional status, which is often among the lowest in a country.

18. Climate change adaptation strategies need to be carefully designed in order to benefit those mostly affected, including poor or indigenous populations. Involving indigenous social institutions and drawing on indigenous knowledge to cope with climate-related shocks will be essential elements of an effective climate change adaptation strategy.

[2] http://www.un.org/climatechange/.

19. The World Food Programme (WFP) is a front-line implementing agency dealing with complex humanitarian crises, including those manifested by droughts, floods, degradation of natural resources and conflict. Increasingly, these crises may be caused or aggravated by climate change. WFP activities help to enhance food security ecosystems at the community and village levels, protect the livelihoods of food-insecure indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups and contribute to building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. Safety-net systems, using food, vouchers and cash for the most vulnerable populations, play a vital role in this regard. In addition, construction of small dams and dykes and the planting of trees are activities that local communities, supported by the international community, including WFP, embark upon to build up resilience against natural disasters.

20. Given its wide and deep field presence, WFP is well-placed to ensure that the real leaders in disaster preparedness and responses, namely individuals and communities, are provided with the resources they need to make the decisions that will increase their abilities to adapt to hazards and thus prevent disasters. The integration of traditional community knowledge systems about hazards and potential impacts and science-based systems broaden and deepen the coverage of early warning systems.

IV. Council of Europe

A. Data collection and disaggregation

21. The Council of Europe addresses the issues of data collection and disaggregation as well as free, prior and informed consent in various forums, including the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the European Roma and Travellers Forum and the Specialist Group on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers. However, the Council of Europe deals with these issues through focusing on national/ethnic minorities (see also para. 26), rather than from the perspective of indigenous peoples.

B. Policies on indigenous issues

22. The Council of Europe has no instrument, be it legally binding or not, dealing specifically with the situation of indigenous peoples. However, a number of human rights instruments of the Council of Europe are relevant to indigenous peoples, whose concerns can often be addressed through the general protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, notably as enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

23. Among Council of Europe instruments, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities is of particular relevance to indigenous peoples because the treaty sets out a number of key principles for the preservation and development of the cultures of national minorities as well as the essential elements of identity.

24. Although the Framework Convention protects persons belonging to national minorities, the Advisory Committee has consistently taken the view that the recognition of a group of persons as constituting indigenous peoples does not prevent persons belonging to the group from benefiting from the protection afforded by the Framework Convention. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee has repeatedly stressed that the applicability of the Framework Convention does not necessarily mean that the authorities should use the term "national minority" in their domestic legislation and practice to describe the group concerned. Against this background, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the protection of the Framework Convention remains available to persons belonging to indigenous peoples if they wish to rely on the protection provided therein. Hence the Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue their dialogue with representatives of indigenous peoples with a view to ensuring that the Framework Convention and the treaties designed for indigenous peoples are not construed as mutually exclusive regimes, and that the persons belonging to indigenous peoples can continue to rely on a wide range of international norms.

25. The monitoring of the Framework Convention by the Advisory Committee and the Committee of Ministers provides illustrations of these principles in the States parties with indigenous peoples (that is, essentially, Sweden, Norway and the Russian Federation). The corresponding country-specific opinions and resolutions can be downloaded at the website of the secretariat of the Framework Convention.[3] These texts contain findings and recommendations in regard to the development, implementation and monitoring of domestic policies on indigenous peoples' issues in the States parties concerned.

26. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is another specific instrument of the Council of Europe that is of relevance for indigenous peoples. Although languages used by indigenous peoples are not addressed as such in the Charter, this instrument is designed to protect and promote all regional or minority languages (including languages of indigenous peoples) as a threatened aspect of Europe's cultural heritage and to enable the speakers of a regional or minority language to use it in private and public life.

27. The Charter sets out the main objectives and principles that States undertake to apply to all regional or minority languages existing within their national territory. It contains a series of measures designed to facilitate and encourage the use of specific regional or minority languages in public life. It is intended to ensure, as far as needed and reasonably possible, that regional or minority languages are used in education and the media and to permit and encourage their use in legal and administrative contexts, in economic and social life, for cultural activities and in transfrontier exchanges. The Charter is based on an approach which fully respects national sovereignty and territorial integrity. It does not see the relationship between official languages and regional or minority languages in terms of competition or antagonism. Development of the latter must not obstruct knowledge and promotion of the former. A deliberate decision was taken to adopt an intercultural and multilingual approach in the Charter with each category of language taking its rightful place. In each state the cultural and social reality must be taken into account.

[3] www.coe.int/minorities.

28. The Charter establishes a mechanism for systematically monitoring its implementation. A committee of independent experts elected by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe examines the observance of the undertakings of States parties on the basis of reports provided by these States and on-the-spot visits carried out by the committee in the countries concerned. After the committee's reports and the recommendations have been adopted by the Committee of Ministers, they are published, with the agreement of the States concerned, on the website of the secretariat of the Charter.[4]

C. Focal point on indigenous issues

29. The Council of Europe has no focal point for indigenous issues as such. Bearing in mind the explanation provided in paragraph 26 above, the units that deal with most of the substantial issues relevant to indigenous peoples are: (a) the secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; (b) the Directorate of Monitoring; and (c) the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs.

D. Conferences and meetings regarding indigenous issues

30. The Council of Europe is going to organize an international conference in Strasbourg on 11 March 2008 to mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of both the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (see also comments in para. 26).

V. Asian Development Bank

A. Introduction

31. Since 1998, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has adopted a policy that the programmes and projects it supports and finances should avoid negatively affecting indigenous peoples, provide adequate and appropriate compensation when negative impact is unavoidable and, to the maximum extent possible, be designed and implemented with the informed participation of affected communities. Moreover, a major priority to implement the Bank's medium-term (2005-2009) strategy is strengthening social inclusiveness by ensuring that development efforts provide equitable opportunities especially to the poor and the marginalized. Throughout the years, ADB has encouraged the participation and involvement of indigenous peoples' organizations and of indigenous peoples themselves in the design and monitoring of various projects and in the review of its policies and strategies.

32. In 2007, the Bank was able to provide financing for capacity-building programmes and technical assistance programmes geared towards design and implementation of more socially and culturally sensitive development projects of its developing member countries. The Bank also continued to provide capacity

[4] www.coe.int/minlang/.

development for its own staff at headquarters and resident missions to be able to identify and address indigenous peoples issues in projects.

33. The year 2008 will continue to provide an opportunity for ADB to further consult stakeholders as it enhances the effectiveness of its safeguard policies through a safeguard policy update, and to ensure their relevance to changing client needs, recent global developments and new lending modalities and instruments.

B. Response to the recommendations of the Forum at its sixth session

Response by the Bank to recommendation 28[5]

34. The Asian Development Bank's Policy on Indigenous Peoples of 1998[6] was conceived taking into mind "the circumstances of indigenous peoples and identifying measures toward satisfying their needs and aspirations" (para. 5). The Policy also recognizes that indigenous peoples have "unique ties and attachments to traditional habitats and ancestral territories and natural resources in these habitats and territories" (para. 9). ADB is aware that development programmes can lead to externally determined land use change and therefore has ensured in its policy that planning as it relates to indigenous peoples is conducted with the informed participation of and in consultation with the indigenous peoples themselves, to determine appropriate mitigation measures and to ensure that self-sufficiency of communities continue, and that cultural integrity will not be lost in the process of development.

Response to recommendation 99[7]

35. In 2007, ADB continued its review of three safeguard policies, which are environment, involuntary resettlement and indigenous peoples. The review process is meant to ensure "the sustainability of project outcomes by protecting the environment and people from potential adverse impacts of projects".[8] The policy update will provide greater harmonization with safeguard practices across multilateral financial institutions and tailor safeguard approaches to different clients. The safeguard policy update process, particularly in relation to the concerns of indigenous peoples, had involved and will continue to involve broad stakeholders' consultations with indigenous peoples' organizations and project-affected indigenous peoples. The safeguard policy update process will also derive information and recommendations from discussions with stakeholders in the course of ADB operational missions. In November 2007, a major consultation of indigenous peoples organizations was conducted in Manila, attended by representatives of various indigenous peoples' organizations from six Asian countries, including the chairperson of the Permanent Forum, to seek their recommendations on the consultation draft safeguard policy statement. The recently approved United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), para. 28.

[6] http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Indigenous_Peoples/default.asp.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), para. 99.

[8] ADB, Consultation draft of the safeguard policy update, 2007, para. 36.

presented during the consultation and will be used as reference for the series of consultations.

C. Response to the recommendations of the Forum at its previous sessions

Response to recommendation 26 of the Forum at its second session[9]

36. One of the five priorities of the second medium-term strategy of ADB is strengthening inclusiveness, which underlines the importance of expanding opportunities in rural and remote areas, combined with measures to address non-income dimensions of poverty. Through its policy of inclusiveness, ADB encourages greater equity in access to services, resources and opportunities; the active participation of the poor, marginalized groups, and other members of society, including indigenous peoples, in social, economic and political life; and household-level security to cope with chronic or sudden risks, especially among poor and marginalized groups.

37. The 1998 Policy on Indigenous Peoples focuses on the participation of indigenous peoples in development and mitigation of the undesirable effects of development. Paragraph 31 of the Policy objectives[4] states that "The Bank's development efforts should ensure that development initiatives affecting indigenous peoples are effective and sustainable. Initiatives should be compatible in substance and structure with the affected peoples' culture and social and economic institutions, and commensurate with the needs, aspirations and demands of affected peoples. Initiatives should be conceived, planned, and implemented to the maximum extent possible, with the informed consent of affected communities, and include respect for indigenous peoples' dignity, human rights and cultural uniqueness".

Response to recommendation 61 of the Forum at its third session[10]

38. The Bank's second medium-term strategy lays fresh emphasis on investing in key social development interventions to promote gender equality by supporting education for girls, better health for girls and women and microfinance projects that help women.

39. ADB, to the extent possible, has pushed for the inclusion of components that will provide culturally tailored microfinance services for indigenous women in the various projects it finances. In 2007, the 2000-approved Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project, for instance, implemented the microfinance component which has targeted and benefited mostly indigenous women from Chakma, Marma and Tripura peoples of Bangladesh. The Bank also continued to implement and design new technical assistance projects in Cambodia, China, Nepal, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, towards social and economic empowerment of indigenous women (e.g., regional technical assistance (RETA) 6247 HIV/AIDS Vulnerability and Risk Reduction Among Ethnic Minority Groups Through Communication Strategies implemented in Greater Mekong Subregion; and

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43), chap. I, para. 26.

[10] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23* (E/2004/43), chap. I, para. 61.

grant 9033 Promoting Silk Income for the Rural Poor in Central Highlands, implemented in Viet Nam).

Response to recommendation 127 of the Forum at its fourth session[11]

40. The Bank formally relayed to the Permanent Forum its commitment to cooperate and participate in the activities of the Forum, beginning at its fifth session. In 2007, ADB invited the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum to address ADB officers and staff on recent global developments on indigenous peoples' issues and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

41. In support of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly (resolution 61/295), ADB spotlighted the Declaration in its indigenous peoples website.[12]

D. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes, or activities regarding indigenous issues within the Bank

Projects and activities

42. The Bank conducts environmental and social due diligence in all projects proposed for Bank financing and continually monitors implementation of all its projects, particularly those that are highly complex and sensitive. In 2007, the six operations departments (including resident missions) of the Bank conducted due diligence missions and initial poverty and social assessments, and encouraged developing member countries to implement preparatory activities that would ensure that impacts on indigenous peoples were identified and strategies were determined to address existing and potential indigenous peoples' issues that had arisen and would arise from proposed development projects. Alongside the operating departments efforts, the Bank's Environment and Social Safeguards Division conducted due diligence and review missions for four complex ongoing projects: (a) Tangguh Liquefied Natural Gas Project in West Papua, Indonesia; (b) Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project in Bangladesh; (c) Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Nam Theun II Hydroelectric Project in the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and (d) Melamchi Water Supply Project in Kathmandu. The missions discussed with project implementers various issues relating to indigenous peoples and recommendations that they fast track the implementation of development plans geared to social or indigenous groups, including addressing complaints from relevant indigenous peoples groups and resolving other implementation issues.

Available publications and handbooks

43. In 2007, ADB released reprints of a publication series entitled *Indigenous Peoples: Ethnic Minorities and Poverty Reduction*. The series comprises four country reports on Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, a regional report covering the four countries and a regional report covering Pacific member countries. Copies of the reports can be requested from the ADB indigenous peoples website.[10]

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[11] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43), chap. I, para. 127.

[12] http://www.adb.org/indigenouspeoples.

44. ADB also continued to update a draft Indigenous Peoples' Policy Handbook. The Handbook complements the Bank's policy on indigenous peoples and describes required processes and guidelines to ensure the integration of the concerns of indigenous peoples in the project cycle. Good practice examples are included in the handbook, which staff could apply and adapt to ensure that projects financed by the Bank are consistent with the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples and compatible in substance and structure with their culture, and to ensure that projects are planned and implemented with the informed participation of affected indigenous peoples. The development of the Handbook is being done in collaboration with both the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank as part of the effort to produce a global indigenous peoples policy handbook. The handbook will be further updated following the outcome of the Safeguard Policy Update.

E. Focal point for indigenous issues

45. The focal point for indigenous peoples issues is the Director General of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department with the support of the Environment and Social Safeguards Division.[13]

F. Capacity-building programmes

46. As part of its regular learning and development programmes for staff, ADB annually conducts at least two three-day orientation programmes on environment and social safeguards. The orientation devotes one day to indigenous peoples issues to enable staff to understand the principles of the policy and for them to manage indigenous peoples issues in the various stages of a project. The orientation also aims to instil consciousness towards mainstreaming indigenous peoples safeguards in the application of Bank lending and thematic policies. In 2007, the Bank conducted two orientation programmes, in which 50 Professional staff and national officers from both headquarters and resident missions participated.

G. List of conferences and other meetings, 2007-2008

47. In 2007, ADB conducted the following conferences, seminars, and meetings related to indigenous peoples:

(a) Presentation on global indigenous peoples issues and free, prior and informed consent by the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum:

20 July 2007, ADB headquarters, Manila

(b) Stakeholders consultation on the Safeguard Policy Update:

17 May 2007	Informal consultation with the Asia Caucus of the Permanent Forum, New York
14 and 15 November 2007	Central Asia multi-stakeholder consultation, Bishkek

[13] See also http://www.adb.org/indigenouspeoples.

19 and 20 November 2007	Informal consultation with multilateral finance institutions, Rome
26 and 27 November 2007	Consultation with indigenous peoples' organizations, ADB headquarters, Manila
28 and 29 November 2007	South-East Asia (Philippines) multi-stakeholder consultation, ADB headquarters, Manila

48. In 2008, the following stakeholder consultations and meetings on the Safeguard Policy Update are scheduled:

16 and 17 January 2008	South Asia multi-stakeholder consultation, New Delhi
18 January 2008	Consultation with civil society organizations, New Delhi
30 and 31 January 2008	Pacific multi-stakeholder consultation, Sydney
12 and 13 February 2008	Indonesia multi-stakeholder consultation, Jakarta
February 2008	Consultation with civil society organizations, ADB headquarters, Manila
27 and 28 February 2008	East Asia multi-stakeholder consultation, Beijing
March 2008	Mekong multi-stakeholder consultation, Hanoi
To be announced	Afghanistan/Pakistan multi-stakeholder consultation Europe multi-stakeholder consultation Japan multi-stakeholder consultation North America multi-stakeholder consultation
Third quarter of 2008	Management review meeting on the draft policy paper (working paper)
Fourth quarter of 2008	Board approval on the final policy paper (restricted paper)

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Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Half-day discussion on indigenous languages

Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Inter-American Development Bank

I. Introduction

1. In response to the request for information on activities implemented or planned by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and related to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session, as well as at previous sessions, IDB hereby provides a summary of its various activities that seek to promote sustainable development with identity and to safeguard the rights of the indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean in accordance with the mandate of its Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765), which has been in force since August 2006.

2. This information focuses on the different thematic areas identified by the Permanent Forum, which are related to the Bank's programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean on the issues of, inter alia, social, economic and cultural development, combating poverty and inequality, and the Millennium Development Goals. However, it should be noted that IDB has received few specific

* E/C.19/2008/1.

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recommendations from the Forum, perhaps because it is not one of the agencies of the United Nations system. Nevertheless, as an intergovernmental organization that is part of the inter-American system and a participant in inter-agency mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG), it has always welcomed the recommendations made at the various sessions and has undertaken to implement them within the framework of its operations.

3. For the past two years, IDB has been conducting an internal realignment process that has involved a review of its management structure and decision-making mechanisms in order to respond more efficiently and promptly at the request of its region. This phase coincides with the implementation of new instruments that will lead to a qualitative improvement in the capacity and quality of the Bank's management on social and environmental issues, particularly those relating to indigenous peoples. These instruments are OP-765, the Strategy for Indigenous Development, the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy and the Strategy for promoting citizen participation in Bank activities.

II. Recommendations made exclusively to IDB with regard to one or more areas of the Forum's mandate (economic and social development, the environment, health, education, culture and human rights) and to the Millennium Development Goals

A. Recommendations made at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum

Health (paragraph 66, single recommendation)[1]

4. On this issue, the recommendation maintains that there is a direct link between birth registration for indigenous children and the allocation of funds for health and other social benefits. In that regard, the Bank recognizes that the indigenous population is one of the groups most affected by the lack of registration (in the case of newborns) and of civil documentation (in the case of adults) as a result of factors such as the absence of culturally appropriate birth registration programmes, cultural and linguistic differences, geographic location and discrimination, which result in greater exclusion and in the denial of fundamental rights. It should be noted that women are the members of the adult population who are most likely to be without identity documents, without which they are limited in the exercise of their rights; this includes economic activities such as opening a bank account, establishing a business, acquiring title to land, enrolling in schools, voting and getting married.

5. IDB has been addressing this issue for the past three years through various initiatives such as an international seminar, held in February 2006 and entitled "Rights from the Start: Identity, Registration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", at which case studies on identity and registration in Latin America and the Caribbean and their consequences for access to rights and social services, implementation of poverty reduction programmes in five Latin American countries and under-registration of births in Latin America were presented.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

6. Following this event, IDB provided support to various countries through projects and technical cooperation designed to strengthen civil registry and documentation programmes and bodies. Inclusion of the issues of cultural and linguistic identity has been promoted in all these initiatives. In the specific case of the indigenous population, the Bank has supported a study on the impact of the ethnic and gender variables on the under-registration of citizens in Latin America; this study has been conducted during the past year and is almost complete.

7. These activities are the first steps towards broader support that will give rise to important concepts, methodologies, instruments and policies that will serve as lessons for the promotion of civil registry and documentation policies in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to cultural relevance and to the effective participation of indigenous peoples.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 19

8. The issue of respect for indigenous peoples' right to land and territories is a central element of OP-765. In that regard, although the Policy does not include the principle of consent, it does incorporate that of a good faith negotiation between the project proponent and the indigenous peoples as a condition for funding. In that connection, one of the requirements established in the Policy is that in the case of operations that "carry a high degree of risk to the physical, territorial or cultural integrity of the affected indigenous peoples or groups, the Bank will further require and verify that the project proponent demonstrate that it has, through a good faith negotiation process, obtained agreements regarding the operation and measures to address the adverse impacts as necessary to support, in the Bank's judgment, the sociocultural viability of the operation".

9. The process of informed, culturally appropriate consultation is one of the mechanisms for implementation of the Policy and, in particular, of this principle (good faith negotiation). The Bank has developed operational guidelines for this purpose.

10. One of the areas in which these measures have been often applied in the Bank's recent experience is that of large-scale infrastructure projects, primarily in the areas of road building, energy and natural resources. It should be noted that a strategic environmental assessment has been conducted for Bolivia's northern corridor, resulting in a plan of action with several components in which issues related to indigenous peoples are reflected in a specific, cross-cutting manner as a consequence of the approaches taken during three rounds of consultations. Consultation with indigenous peoples was carried out specifically and with prior coordination that ensured broad participation by the peoples and organizations of Bolivia's eastern and northern departments.

11. Another example of indigenous peoples' participation in the preparatory phase of a project and in management of its impact on society is provided by the process of prior consultation with and participation of the Pemon and Krenakore indigenous peoples in Venezuela's Caroní River basin, who were indirectly affected by construction of the Tocoma hydroelectric power plant. Prior evaluation and coordination with the indigenous peoples, including the Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the State of Bolivar, resulted in the indigenous peoples' proposal of the Caroní Basin sustainable management plan.

12. With regard to road infrastructure, the measures currently being implemented in connection with the Pasto-Mocoa road in Colombia should be noted. A participatory process involving local communities is under way as part of the environmental and social strategy; it includes communities of the Inga and Kamsá indigenous peoples located in the area affected by the road (the existing road). During this process, a sustainable development programme for the forest reserve area of the upper Mocoa River basin and its area of impact was developed. This participatory process, which is still ongoing, has provided the Bank with an experience rich in lessons that will be reflected in other operations.

13. The following lessons have been learned from this experience:

(a) The need for advance determination of the potential impact and the potentially affected persons and to take appropriate measures promptly;

(b) The need to address issues related to indigenous peoples specifically and in a differentiated, culturally appropriate manner;

(c) The need to develop a strategy for dialogue and informed consultation with the affected indigenous communities themselves;

(d) The need to prepare detailed terms of reference for activities, methodologies, procedures and approaches and, inter alia, to identify measures that may make an activity culturally relevant;

(e) The need to include specialists who are indigenous or have extensive experience with indigenous peoples;

(f) The need to monitor closely the activities that are conducted;

(g) The need to institutionalize participation in project implementation mechanisms (governing councils, advisory councils and modalities for community participation in the allocation of funds); and

(h) The need to ensure that the outcomes or issues have the consent of the affected persons as part of a culturally appropriate consultation process; in some cases, this involves additional measures such as use of the local language.

14. Despite these and other lessons, there are still challenges and issues that require further consideration, such as the appropriate use of local languages in consultation processes; the self-identification of communities (in some regions and countries, the definition of "indigenous people" varies and people generally avoid identifying themselves as indigenous); appropriate, inclusive identification and direct participation of local organizations and stakeholders; and the need to conduct more thorough socio-cultural diagnostic studies.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 26

15. Since August 2006, as stated above, IDB has been implementing OP-765 and its complementary Strategy for Indigenous Development. Both documents were prepared through a broad process of consultation with the various sectors concerned (including, inter alia, indigenous peoples, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), agencies and academics) and are based on international norms (prior to the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) that protect the rights of indigenous peoples. The Policy applies to all operations and activities supported by the Bank's resources, including financial and non-financial

products. In that regard, with respect to the sovereign decisions of the governments of debtor countries, the Bank, under its own mandate and in its dialogue with governments, promotes, inter alia, respect for and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly those associated with their territories.

16. With regard to dialogue with governments and country strategies, the Bank is preparing technical notes on, inter alia, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. During the past year, it has made progress in preparation of the technical notes on Bolivia, Nicaragua, Suriname, Ecuador, Belize, Guyana, Guatemala and Peru.

Response to paragraph 45

17. The issue of the effective participation of indigenous peoples in specific projects, and in projects that focus on the indigenous population as beneficiaries, is included in one of the directives of OP-765 as part of a set of key guidelines for supporting development with identity. This means that a project must not only respond to a request from the indigenous peoples themselves; it must also ensure the participation of interested parties in the design and other phases of the project cycle as a key factor in its sustainability and success.

18. At present, increasing numbers of technical cooperation projects and loan operations are being implemented or planned with the direct participation of the beneficiary communities, including, for example:

(a) A project that supports the development of a network of aboriginal community sustainable tourism enterprises in Jujuy Province, Argentina, in cooperation with Warmi Sayajsunqo, an indigenous (Kolla) women's organization whose objective is to create and strengthen a network of sustainable aboriginal community enterprises that offer tourist services and products reflecting the ancestral identity of the indigenous peoples of the Puna region; its work helps the indigenous peoples improve their quality of life;

(b) The Orígenes II Project in Chile, which seeks to promote the integrated territorial development of communities in the rural Mapuche, Atacameño and Aymara region;

(c) Support for the competitive development of cultural tourism in the Mayan communities of Guatemala. This project's objective is to make the Mayan communities competitive in tourism areas so that they can benefit from the tourist activity. The goal is to increase the Mayan communities' capacity to develop, organize and market ethnic tourism products in a sustainable manner;

(d) A rural development project in Guatemala, currently in its initial phase, the purpose of which is to support the establishment of businesses by indigenous people and the development of production chains;

(e) The Sustainable Development Plan for Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia; its objectives include the legal establishment of title to land, food security on the basis of a strengthened traditional economy, and support for organic coffee production among the Kogi people; and

(f) Support for the entrepreneurship and competitiveness of the indigenous peoples of Panama with a focus on support for women's initiatives and the protection of collective intellectual property.

19. Participation of and dialogue with the Rapa Nui concerning their special status in Chile.

20. Recent studies on good practices have focused on, inter alia, the following:

(a) Indigenous peoples' access to post-secondary vocational education (in Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Ecuador);

(b) Experience with good practices in the area of intercultural health;

(c) Good practices for indigenous enterprise development;

(d) Income from land in Bolivia; and

(e) Participation and political representation of indigenous women.

21. As stated above, because of their specific nature, these activities require close interaction with the indigenous peoples concerned and, above all, a high degree of participation, without which there would be no reason to develop or implement them. Indigenous specialists have participated in various studies and their knowledge has given added value to the results thereof.

Response to paragraph 145

22. The traditional knowledge and collective intellectual property of indigenous peoples are considered in the directives of OP-765; its primary objective is to protect them from potential harm. The Bank realizes that these assets have their basis in the territory and culture of indigenous peoples and is aware of the complexity of the types of protection required.

23. In that regard, no specific initiative on traditional knowledge of biodiversity has been developed, but initiatives on traditional knowledge with a view to territorial development and on the recovery of cultural heritage have been launched. The Bank has promoted the issue of biodiversity in some of its projects on patent law and intellectual property in various Latin American and Caribbean countries with the general rule that national legislation should recognize, and provide for the protection of, the traditional knowledge and collective intellectual property of indigenous peoples.

24. IDB has also incorporated this issue into projects that support indigenous communities' production of handicrafts and art, and into cultural tourism projects in which the need to protect sacred sites and cultural practices should be given priority, together with other concerns about traditional knowledge in the economic sphere. For example, one of the goals of the trinational programme, Aymaras without Borders, is to restore traditional trade through the Andean vertical exchange systems.

25. Concerning this recommendation, the Bank considers that specific contributions are needed with a view to the development of more relevant and effective mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge. Indigenous peoples' territory — the physical and symbolic space in which knowledge in the broadest sense of the word is generated and used — is one possible area for progress towards this goal. This traditional knowledge is part of the consensual practice and norms that govern the societies of indigenous peoples. In light of the importance of indigenous territories at the local and national levels, there is a need to work with indigenous peoples in conducting studies on territorial management, the cultural

uses thereof and resource management in order to ensure that they are recognized and incorporated into the policies, plans and programmes in areas such as land-use planning, resource management and protection of certain areas. To that end, the Bank has developed the cultural land use analysis (CLAN) methodology; it is already being applied, including in the Integrated Ecosystem Management in Indigenous and Community Lands in Central America programme.

B. Response to recommendations made during previous sessions of the Permanent Forum

Fifth session

26. At the fifth session, the only recommendation directed solely towards IDB concerned data collection and disaggregation (para. 165)[2], to be implemented in collaboration with the World Bank as follow-up to the work of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in disaggregating the human development index. The Bank is addressing that issue, as requested, through several initiatives related to censuses and household surveys. In Colombia, for example, technical cooperation is providing support for the compilation and improvement of census data on the indigenous and Afro-descendant population. In Paraguay, another technical cooperation project is being implemented in order to provide information on the living conditions of indigenous peoples while incorporating cultural and environmental variables. These initiatives make use of the Bank's Program for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI).

Third session[3]

27. The recommendation in the area of economic and social development (para. 61) urges the Bank to design special programmes to support indigenous peoples' economic and social development. In that regard, the Bank is implementing various relevant projects, on, inter alia:

(a) The Integrated Development for Indigenous Peoples programme in Chile;

(b) Rural-driven development in Guatemala;

(c) Support for the establishment of community-based cultural tourism businesses in Argentina, Guatemala and Honduras;

(d) A comprehensive development programme for the indigenous peoples of Honduras;

(e) Support for indigenous mining operations in Cauca, Colombia; and

(f) A series of indigenous entrepreneurship projects in nine Latin American countries.

28. In paragraph 97, it is recommended that IDB should incorporate indigenous people's issues into the formulation of sector policies. As mentioned previously, the Bank has an Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765), a Strategy for

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43).
[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43).

Indigenous Development and other instruments that incorporate indigenous peoples' issues, including, inter alia, the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy, a voluntary resettlement policy and the Strategy for promoting citizen participation in Bank activities.

III. Responses to recommendations addressed to two or more agencies under one or more items of the agenda of the Permanent Forum

A. Recommendations made at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 12

29. IDB has not provided the support, recommended by the Permanent Forum, for the representation and participation of indigenous peoples at the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as the Bank's internal procedures for this type of assistance allow it to be provided only when an event is related to projects or activities financed or sponsored by IDB. Another constraint is the fact that IDB is not part of the United Nations system, which hampers its efforts to follow up on issues that are not directly related to its own programme and agenda.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 14

30. In relation to the topic of climate change and related issues such as policies and funding for plantation and forestry projects and studies on good practices, the most relevant IDB activities are the following:

(a) There are two current policies (2006), as mentioned earlier: OP-765 and the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy. The two policies are complementary and ensure that the Bank's funding is available only for economically sustainable projects in the social, environmental and cultural sectors;

(b) In relation to plantations, the Bank is not currently financing large-scale plantation or monocrop projects. However, in accordance with the worldwide concern about the need for alternative energy sources, the Bank is supporting a large number of projects for biofuel sources, especially in Brazil and Mexico. In both cases, the funding is intended to improve the technological competitiveness of production, which is based on existing plantations that do not have an impact on indigenous areas, lands and territories;

(c) With regard to forestry projects, there are emerging initiatives in the context of, inter alia, the Integrated Development for Indigenous Peoples project in Chile (Phase II); the Food and Financial Self-support for Aché and Ava Guaraní Communities project and a project for expansion of the vegetable sponge by-products industry in Paraguay. There is also a technical cooperation project in support of the creation of fire brigades in specific Mebengokre (Kayapó) villages in Brazil with the main goal of creating and training brigades to combat forest fires in Kayapó communities; and

(d) The Bank does not yet have case studies of good practices in this area.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 28

31. As explained in the response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 28, OP-765 sets clear mandates for safeguarding the ancestral lands and territories of indigenous peoples. This policy is being applied in a number of the Bank's activities, including the programming process and country strategies.

Response to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 39 to 41

32. The Bank has been monitoring this issue closely for the past four years. The most challenging area has been the provision of support for the Peruvian Government through the Camisea natural gas project. The project's area of influence includes communities of peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

33. In the context of this project, one of the most important measures adopted as part of the environmental and social strategy involved negotiation with the Peruvian Government in order to strengthen protection of the Nahua Kugapakori Nanti and similar reserves, as well as of communal reserves such as that of the Matsiguenga and Asháninka peoples; to achieve the enactment of legislation to protect peoples in isolation; and to prepare the protection plan for the Nahua Kugapakori Nanti and other reserves. On that basis, the Bank has followed up on the issue and, together with other interested organizations in the region (NGOs and indigenous peoples' organizations), has participated in events organized on the issue of the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation in the Amazon basin and the Chaco region. As a result, a study on standards for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation (in the Amazon and Chaco regions) was carried out last year. As soon as it was completed, its results offered interesting challenges and opportunities for the protection of those peoples. The study has not yet been published.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 69

34. OP-765 and the Strategy for Indigenous Development establish the role of IDB in promoting culturally relevant education and, in that context, supporting projects or project components involving bilingual and intercultural education, in addition to indigenous students' access to secondary and higher education. This IDB policy framework is consistent with the Forum's mandate and recommendations on education.

35. Recent IDB initiatives include the following:

(a) A technical training scholarship programme for indigenous and Afro-descendant students in the Andean region. Implementation has begun in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador with the objective of providing technical post-secondary training for at least 80 male and female students;

(b) The Diversity in the University initiative, under implementation in Brazil, which promotes ethnic inclusiveness;

(c) A study on the status of bilingual intercultural education in Latin America; and

(d) A study on indigenous peoples' access to vocational, technical and higher education in Latin America.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 78

36. In relation to the adoption of the rights-based development approach recommended by the Permanent Forum, IDB includes in its OP-765 the concept of development with identity, understood as "a process that includes the strengthening of indigenous peoples, harmony with their environment, sound management of territories and natural resources, the generation and exercise of authority, and respect for indigenous rights ... in accordance with their own worldview and governance". This concept is applied through processes of informed consultation. Although, as previously mentioned, OP-765 does not include the concept of consent, the Bank is making use of prior and informed consultation processes in its activities and, on that basis, is negotiating good faith agreements with the indigenous peoples concerned.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 107

37. One of the Bank's most important initiatives relating to urban indigenous peoples is being implemented in Chile, where Phase II of the Integrated Development for Indigenous Peoples project (for which the stakeholders are the rural Mapuche, Atacemeno and Aymara communities) included a study on urban indigenous peoples. Its results will be used as the basis for a new project, which is being discussed with the Government.

38. A smaller-scale initiative is the census of indigenous street vendors in Quito, Ecuador, which is being used in the preparation of an innovative project to build a shopping centre owned by the Jatun Ayllu Association of Indigenous Street Vendors. The street vendors will not move their street selling activities to the shopping centre; instead, the centre will be rented out and the rental income used to fund indigenous microenterprises that will provide them with an alternative to peddling their wares on the city's streets.

39. OP-765 includes provisions on urban indigenous peoples and immigrants in order to ensure that urban projects financed by IDB identify the indigenous population and include culturally relevant components and measures. In relation to international migration, IDB is implementing a number of projects designed to enhance the use of remittances; to date, however, no studies have focused specifically on the immigrant indigenous population.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 123

40. With regard to the collection and disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples, the Bank has initiatives for social programmes in order to promote achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. These initiatives are specifically concerned with including cultural and environmental variables in databases and instruments used in poverty reduction activities. They also include approaches, methodologies and instruments that are culturally relevant and appropriate to the provision of services, primarily in the areas of health and education.

41. In terms of statistical instruments, IDB has the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI) initiative, which seeks to help countries improve their quality-of-life surveys. In the context of MECOVI, one of the most recent initiatives is a survey of a thousand indigenous families in

Paraguay which includes questions on cultural and environmental factors and perceptions that play a major role in determining the conditions and quality of life. Representatives of indigenous peoples helped prepare the questions and conduct the survey.

42. The Bank is also supporting the census processes in every country of the region. Over the past few years, it has encouraged the inclusion of questions on ethnicity, culture and language and has supported censuses of indigenous peoples in Paraguay and Venezuela. In addition, the Bank (in coordination with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)) has supported sociodemographic analyses based on the most recent census data from Panama and Ecuador.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 140

43. Although it is not part of the United Nations system, IDB has been participating in the work of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) and in the sessions of the Permanent Forum. It has also been collaborating with a number of organizations, including the World Bank, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). IDB will continue to participate in those forums in the knowledge that it will be strengthening cooperation and activities in support of the rights of indigenous peoples in the region.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 151

44. Specific IDB initiatives involving indigenous peoples that live in areas extending over more than one national territory include the following:

(a) The Meso-American Biological Corridor, an initiative to support the integrated management of indigenous people's territories in the Meso-American region;

(b) The initiative entitled, "Conservation of the Natural Resource Endowment of the Great Chaco", an area which extends into Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina, through a management and conservation strategy based on the systems and knowledge of the region's indigenous peoples;

(c) An initiative on standards for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation in the Amazon and Chaco regions (the study has just been completed); and

(d) An initiative on the Aymara cultural and natural heritage that involves Aymara municipalities and communities in Chile and Bolivia; it aims to prepare a strategic plan on borders, production in public-private partnerships (camelids, quinoa, mining services companies, energy and irrigation), tourism and a return to traditional trade (networks, terraced fields and exchange).

45. These initiatives fall within the mandates of OP-765, which establishes, inter alia, the need for programmes on the legal security, territorial control, health, freedom of movement and economic, social and cultural integration of these peoples.

C. Recommendations made at previous sessions of the Permanent Forum

Fifth session

46. At its fifth session, the Permanent Forum called for the coordination of work between itself and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG). In relation to that recommendation, IDB has been participating in a number of IASG activities and in the sessions of the Permanent Forum, at which it has had the opportunity to hold meetings with members of the Permanent Forum. In coordination with the World Bank, ILO and IFAD, it has also participated in discussions on issues relating to, inter alia, economic, social and cultural development and data collection and disaggregation.

47. Another recommendation made at the fifth session relates to inclusion of the principles of self-determination and free, prior and informed consent. OP-765 does not specifically include those concepts, but it establishes culturally appropriate informed consultation and good faith negotiation with the indigenous peoples concerned as fundamental mechanisms for its operations. It also includes the concept of indigenous governance, which recognizes, inter alia, the right of indigenous peoples to control their own economic, social and cultural development and the internal management of their lands and territories.

48. At the same session, in the area of human rights, the Forum recommended the adoption of specific measures for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation (para. 83). In that connection, the Bank, in accordance with the mandate of its policy on respect for the right of those peoples to live in that way, has carried out a regional study to evaluate their situation and the administrative mechanisms for protection of their rights that are being applied in the Amazon basin and the Chaco region. The results of the study will be disseminated in the near future.

IV. Responses to issues

A. Indigenous children and youth

49. In relation to indigenous children and youth, the Bank has considered social initiatives such as:

(a) Education: projects for educational reform and improvement of educational coverage and quality. For example, in Ecuador, the national education plan supported by the Bank includes indigenous education with an intercultural and bilingual focus; and

(b) Health and nutrition: a study of the views of indigenous communities on child undernutrition and nutrition programmes in Central American countries, conducted jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP). Another study, which is close to completion, focuses on tools to reduce maternal and child mortality among indigenous women in Latin America. More specifically, a project in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region aims to combat undernutrition by returning to the use of traditional plants and production systems. In this area, IDB is collaborating with a European Union project.

B. Indigenous women

50. Indigenous women are involved in various IDB initiatives, including the following:

(a) The Programme for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD). Priority is given to strengthening the civic and political participation of indigenous women. PROLEAD has allocated about US$ 1 million to projects designed to increase the leadership, communication and advocacy skills of indigenous women in Latin America. The Programme also supported the first Indigenous Women's Summit of the Americas, held in Mexico in 2002;

(b) The establishment of an External Advisory Council on Women in Development, which includes a woman representative of indigenous peoples;

(c) Support for business initiatives by the indigenous peoples of Panama, with special emphasis on women entrepreneurs;

(d) Design of tools to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women in Latin America;

(e) Support for the project to create a network of aboriginal community sustainable tourism enterprises in Jujuy province, Argentina, in cooperation with the Kolla women's organization, "Warmi Sayajsunqo";

(f) Support for Pro Mujer Peru through recognition of its excellence in microfinance. Pro Mujer is a network devoted to microfinance and development initiatives (business training and health support) for low-income women; it has established five microfinance institutions in Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru, and many of the beneficiaries are indigenous women; and

(g) A scholarship programme that funds post-secondary technical training for indigenous and Afro-descendant students in Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, in which 50 per cent of the participants are women.

C. Data collection and disaggregation

51. IDB is encouraging the inclusion of questions on ethnicity and culture in household surveys and censuses. In recent years, it has provided support for censuses and submission of specific information on the indigenous population, with a special effort to promote the issues of ethnic self-identification and the linguistic variable. For example, in Paraguay and Venezuela, the Bank has supported the holding of specific censuses of indigenous peoples. In Panama and Ecuador, sociodemographic analyses of indigenous peoples were carried out on the basis of census data in collaboration with ECLAC.

52. In addition, since 2005, the Bank has been supporting the use of data collection and disaggregation instruments in a number of its operations, such as social protection and poverty reduction programmes (including conditional transfer programmes) and the mainstreaming of ethnicity and gender variables in Argentina, Panama and Nicaragua. In addition to these activities, the Bank has supported three records modernization projects (civil registry and documentation) in Uruguay, Honduras and Brazil (under implementation) which promote, inter alia, the inclusion of ethnicity and gender variables.

53. Other activities include a number of regional and national studies (Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia, Colombia and Argentina) designed to evaluate the results of the management of ethnicity, race and gender variables, obstacles, and challenges in statistics systems and institutions. Lastly, technical cooperation is being provided in Paraguay in order to measure the living conditions of indigenous peoples by including cultural, environmental and economic variables in survey questions and thereby to record indigenous people's perceptions of well-being.

54. Despite the above initiatives, however, the Bank considers that there are still significant challenges to be met in the development of specific instruments and methodologies for the collection and disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples of the region.

D. Free, prior and informed consent

55. The Bank has not included this concept in OP-765 (see the response to the recommendation contained in para. 19), but it has included the equivalent — good faith negotiation — for special cases (proactive projects and projects with significant impact).

E. Millennium Development Goals

56. In this connection, the Bank's main mandates include poverty reduction and ensuring sustainable growth in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This mandate is fully consistent with the Millennium Development Goals and with the additional goals of social inclusion and the promotion of equity in Bank operations. Both OP-765 and the Strategy for Indigenous Development are consistent with the themes of the Goals. On the basis of those mandates and instruments, IDB has been promoting efforts to achieve the Goals in its social-sector activities (especially in social protection, education and health projects). Specifically in relation to indigenous peoples, the Bank considers that the Millennium Development Goals may not be met by those peoples unless the programmes and activities are culturally relevant. It has therefore carried out several studies in order to assess and identify obstacles and challenges to meeting the Goals. The most significant of these are:

(a) Considerations of Race and Ethnicity in the Millennium Development Goals: the Case of Honduras; and

(b) The Millennium Development Goals and the ethnic gap in Peru (in Spanish).

57. Measures being adopted in relation to a key area related to the Goals include data collection and disaggregation, especially in the household surveys. One of the first specific initiatives of this kind involved conducting a quality-of-life survey of the indigenous peoples of Paraguay.

F. Human rights

58. IDB has a complete, up-to-date database of existing legislation on indigenous peoples and their rights in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. This

database, which is updated periodically, is a unique source of information and works on indigenous peoples' rights and is available to all interested parties, both within and outside the Bank. In addition, IDB is providing design support for a system to monitor the enforcement of indigenous legislation in countries with special normative frameworks.

V. Obstacles to implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations to IDB

59. For IDB, the greatest obstacle to implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations is perhaps a factor related to the Bank's agenda and institutional specialization: some of the recommendations, while extremely important, cannot be implemented because they do not correspond to the Bank's area of action and specialization. Opportunities for providing follow-up in coordination with other institutions are therefore limited. Nevertheless, many of the recommendations, as explained above, are consistent with the Bank's policies and programming.

VI. Factors facilitating IDB implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations

60. The following are among the most relevant factors:

(a) Having a specific policy and a body (or focal point) with specific functions and mandates concerning indigenous peoples;

(b) Having offices in each of its Latin American and Caribbean member countries; this facilitates a direct relationship with countries and social partners;

(c) Having Governments' and the Bank's commitment to meet the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Having specialist staff; and

(e) Being a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues within the framework of the Permanent Forum.

VII. IDB policies and instruments on indigenous peoples

61. The Bank has had a specific Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765) and Strategy for Indigenous Development since August 2006. It also has a Strategy for promoting citizen participation in Bank activities, which establishes guidelines for indigenous peoples' participation based on culturally appropriate measures. Furthermore, although the Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP-710) is not a specific tool for indigenous populations, it establishes that free, prior and informed consent is required in cases where an indigenous population will be affected.

62. Other noteworthy tools and mechanisms are:

(a) The Diversity Internship Programme, held twice each year, whereby 10 indigenous and Afro-descendant students participate in two- to three-month internships at the Bank's headquarters; and

(b) The Diversity Junior Professional Programme, whereby two students (of whom one is indigenous and the other Afro-descendant) are recruited annually to work for two years at the Bank's headquarters. The expansion of this programme to include a greater number of junior professionals is currently under consideration.

63. It is also important to mention that the Bank's country offices in Latin America and the Caribbean have Civil Society Advisory Councils (CASC), several of which include representatives of indigenous peoples. In order to strengthen the Council's role, the Bank is carrying out a programme that focuses specifically on the participation of civil society in its activities.

VIII. Additional information on specific activities and projects included in the budget for 2007

64. The projects listed below are those which were implemented in 2007 and focus specifically on indigenous peoples as beneficiaries. Other operations which have indigenous components or were approved in previous years and are currently under implementation are not included:

Indigenous Peoples Tourist Route in Argentina: Tourism with Identity

Preparation of a Small-Scale Indigenous Mining Corridor Project

Empowerment, Protection, and Support for Indigenous Entrepreneurs in Panama

Indigenous Entrepreneurial Development Programme

Best Practices in Innovative Indigenous Productive Projects

Project for the Conservation of the Natural Patrimony of the Great Chaco

Indigenous and Afro-Latin American Scholarship Programme

Regional training programme on the Initiative for the Integration of South American Regional Infrastructure (IIRSA) methodology for the application of environmental and social evaluation

Conservation and Social Usage of the Chapaq Ñan Natural and Cultural Heritage

Monitoring and appraisal system: Legal Framework and Public Policies for Indigenous Peoples

Land Privatization, Titling and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America

Support for preparation of the Programme of Standards Protection for Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation

Strategic Mapping and Sociocultural Assessment to Evaluate the Impacts and Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and the IIRSA Project Portfolio

Implementation of the Enlace Social Inclusion Trust Fund Communication Strategy

Indigenous Peoples and Public and Private Economic Governance in Latin America

Guidelines for the Implementation of the Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples and the Strategy for Indigenous Development

Support for Indigenous Entrepreneurial Development

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Vegetable Medicine in the Kallaway Communities of Bautista Saavedra Province

Toolkit to Reduce Maternal and Infant Mortality among Rural Indigenous Populations

Policy Note for the Country Strategy in Paraguay. MECOVI for indigenous peoples

Policy Note for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in Nicaragua

Policy Note on Indigenous Peoples in Belize

IX. Focal point on indigenous peoples

65. The Bank's Gender and Diversity Unit is responsible for the promotion and coordination of issues related to, inter alia, indigenous peoples.

X. IDB capacity-building on indigenous issues

66. Over the past year, the Bank has developed guides and tools for the implementation of its policies and strategies, particularly the OP-765 and the Strategy for Indigenous Development. At the same time, as a mechanism for awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing, the Bank holds conferences in order to disseminate to its specialists the results of studies and technical cooperation activities on various specific issues, including those related to indigenous peoples.

67. Training events for IDB specialists on the use in the project cycle of operational guides and tools for policy implementation that are specifically related to safeguards issues are currently being planned. This training will also focus on such issues as informed consultation and community participation. Owing to the nature of the issue and to the dynamics of the Bank's operations, training on issues related to indigenous peoples will be a systematic task.

XI. IDB actions related to the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

68. The Bank has not yet developed any activities within the specific framework of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. However, the activities currently under implementation or be incorporated into planning in the short term are consistent with the goals of the Second Decade, which refer to the strengthening of international cooperation for the benefit of indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, the environment and social and economic development. In this context, the entry into force of OP-765, in August 2006, marks an important step in the Bank's efforts to safeguard the rights and support the development with identity of indigenous peoples within the framework of this Second International Decade.

XII. Information/suggestions regarding the special theme for the next session of the Permanent Forum's: "Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

69. The Bank has developed a methodology for cultural land-use research and planning. One of the central components of this methodology is indigenous peoples' knowledge about the management of their territories and resources. As a key counterweight to climate change, the suggestion for the Permanent Forum's next session is that progress could be made on analysing the role of this knowledge.

XIII. IDB events related to indigenous peoples to be held in 2008 and 2009

70. The events to be held over the next two years are related to the Bank's operations and, for the most part, are designed for an internal audience. These include:

In 2008:

(a) Presentation of the results of a diagnostic study on indigenous peoples' enterprises in Panama;

(b) Publication of the results of a case study on intercultural health;

(c) Presentation of the results of the study on land titling and indigenous peoples in Latin America;

(d) Presentation of the impact of technical cooperation on the design of tools to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women in Latin America;

(e) A training workshop on operational guidelines for the implementation of OP-765;

(f) A seminar on indigenous entrepreneurship and presentation of a series of indigenous entrepreneurship projects in nine countries;

(g) Presentation of nine case studies on the economic governance of indigenous peoples and publication of the results.

In 2009:

(h) An international event on the economy and indigenous culture within the framework of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bank's establishment;

(i) A workshop on experience with ethno-engineering (the cultural adaptation of infrastructure designs) in Honduras, Ecuador and Chile;

(j) Presentation of the monitoring system for enforcement of indigenous legislation under a pilot project to be conducted in three countries; and

(k) Incorporation of an Indigenous Advisory Council.

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Seventh session
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

I. United Nations Forum on Forests, Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

II. International Organization for Migration**

Summary

The present document comprises two reports. The first has been prepared by the United Nations Forum on Forests, which provides a brief overview of the work currently undertaken by the Forum and aspects that are related to indigenous peoples' issues. The second report, that of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), responds to the recommendations from the report on the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The present report also references activities undertaken or being planned by IOM that are of specific relevance to the Permanent Forum.

* E/C.19/2008/1.

** The submission of the present document was delayed in order to include the most recent information.

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I. United Nations Forum on Forests

1. In 2006, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/49, added three new principal functions to the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, one of which is to encourage and assist countries in increasing the area of forests under sustainable management and reducing forest degradation with a view to enhancing the benefits of forests in order to meet present and future needs, in particular the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods depend on forests.

2. The General Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests on 17 December 2007 (see resolution 62/98, annex). This landmark decision significantly advances efforts to monitor the state of the world's forests and secure long-term political commitment to sustainable forest management. The instrument contains the following four global objectives on forests:

(a) Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

(b) Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;

(c) Increase significantly the area of protected forests and other sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests;

(d) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

3. In addition, the instrument contains a number of provisions specifically related to indigenous peoples' issues, as follows:

(a) With reference to national policies, paragraph 6 (f) states that Member States should support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management with the approval and the involvement of the holders of such knowledge and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits out of their utilization, according to national legislation and relevant international agreements;

(b) Paragraph 6 (h) states that Member States should create enabling environments for the involvement of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management through a framework of policies, incentives and regulations;

(c) Paragraph 6 (s) states that Member States should promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management;

(d) Paragraph 6 (v) states that Member States should support education, training and extension programmes involving local and indigenous communities,

forest workers and forest owners, in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests, particularly fragile ecosystems;

(e) Paragraph 6 (y) states that Member States should enhance access by households, small-scale forest owners, forest-dependent local and indigenous communities, living in and outside forest areas, to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management, consistent with sustainable forest management;

(f) Finally, in reference to international cooperation, paragraph 7 (k) states that Member States should enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries, for the benefit of local and indigenous communities.

4. Thus, the instrument reflects substantial recognition and concern for the rights and needs of local and indigenous communities. A copy of the instrument is available on the website of the Forum.[1] In addition to the instrument, the Forum also adopted a multi-year programme of work in 2007 that will guide its deliberations until the year 2015. From the present until 2015, at each biennial session, the Forum will consider implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the four global objectives on forests in addition to implementation of sustainable forest management and previous decisions and resolutions of the Forum and the proposals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and its successor, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, for action.

5. In the multi-year programme of work, Member States also decided to appoint themes for each of the future sessions of the Forum. While the themes of all sessions include certain aspects of issues related to indigenous people, the ninth session (in 2011) will focus primarily on social aspects, including indigenous and community issues. At its next session, which will be held in 2009 on the theme "Forests in a changing environment", the Forum will address three major issues:

(a) Forests and climate change;

(b) Combating the loss of forest cover, forest degradation and desertification;

(c) Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas.

The Forum will also address means of implementation and a possible financial mechanism as well as forest-related law enforcement and governance at that session.

6. At its ninth session, in 2011, the Forum will focus on the theme "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", and will address:

(a) Community-based forest management;

(b) Social development and forest-dependent indigenous and other local communities, including land tenure;

(c) Social and cultural aspects of forests.

7. The General Assembly also decided that 2011 would be the International Year of Forests, and the Forum will include celebrations of the year at its ninth session. A

[1] See www.un.org/esa/forests.

midterm review will also take place in 2011. In 2013, the Forum will discuss forests and economic development, and in 2015 it will undertake a comprehensive review of its work. A full description of the multi-year programme of work for the Forum is also available on its website.

8. Sessions of the Forum include interactive multi-stakeholder dialogues that have proved to be a very effective medium to bring together different interest groups and Member States. The indigenous peoples major group has been an active participant in such dialogues, and the Forum looks forward to the active engagement of indigenous peoples in all its forthcoming sessions.

II. International Organization for Migration

Introduction

9. At the global level, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will publish a paper on the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. At the field level, IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, Governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing projects that respond to the particular needs of indigenous peoples and are culturally appropriate.

A. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Organization for Migration

10. In the report on its sixth session, the Permanent Forum addressed recommendation 24 to IOM (see E/2007/43, para. 24). Since 2006, the reparations programmes of IOM have provided expert advice and technical assistance to the National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation of Colombia in developing procedures and setting up regional offices to fulfil its mandate to assist victims of violence in obtaining reparations. While highlighting that indigenous peoples need particular assistance in the areas of reparations and rehabilitation, in 2007 IOM recommended the establishment of a specific office of the Commission to guide and coordinate its work for indigenous victims. The Chairman of the Commission agreed at the time with this recommendation.

11. IOM continues to stand committed to offer its expertise and technical assistance to Governments that request such services, and its reparations programme will continue to include the needs of indigenous populations in all of its contacts, outreach and project development activities.

12. In response to recommendation 17 of the Permanent Forum in the report on its fifth session (see E/2006/43, para. 17), IOM and its counterparts on the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues decided at its annual meeting to establish a migration contact group within the support group to identify relevant ongoing work within individual agencies and to strategize on how to raise the specific issues of indigenous peoples within the migration debate. The representative of IOM was appointed as the group's convenor.

B. Response to recommendations addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general

13. In response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations to the Inter-Agency Support Group and international organizations, IOM works in cooperation with other members of the Group to maximize collaboration, avoid duplication and advance joint efforts to strengthen work on data collection and identification of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples. Additionally, IOM supports efforts to integrate indigenous issues into development frameworks and supports partnerships to ensure the protection of, and respect for, indigenous peoples' rights and the realization of their visions of development with respect for their culture and identity. IOM would also ensure that programmes are culturally appropriate and include the full and effective participation as well as the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

14. The response of IOM to recommendation 68 of the Permanent Forum in the report on its fifth session (see E/2006/43, para. 68) is discussed in sections D and E below. As a project-based, decentralized, intergovernmental organization, lack of core funding hampers the implementation of this recommendation by IOM.

15. In response to recommendation 80 of the Permanent Forum in the report on its sixth session (see E/2007/43, para. 80), as previously noted, IOM and its counterparts in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues decided at their annual meeting to establish a migration contact group within the Support Group.

C. Response to the Permanent Forum's special emphasis on indigenous children and youth, indigenous women, data collection and disaggregation and free, prior and informed consent

16. The projects highlighted under section G below encapsulate a number of IOM activities which are relevant to those areas.

D. Obstacles to implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

17. IOM is a project-based organization. Lack of core resources to address issues related to indigenous peoples and migration can be overcome only by donor support through project funding.

E. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

18. With more than 300 field offices globally, IOM has a presence in nearly every country. However, each office is supported by donors through project funding. Further identification and support from donors with an interest in indigenous issues, along with a mandate from the national/local government, would further facilitate the implementation by IOM of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, along with further activities with indigenous peoples.

F. Policies on indigenous peoples' issues

19. Over the past two years, IOM has increased its engagement on indigenous issues in a number of ways that are highlighted under section G below. IOM joined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues in 2006, bringing a migration perspective to the group. Furthermore, a number of IOM missions work with indigenous communities in a participatory fashion to allow their free, prior and informed consent on activities as well as their inputs on the design and implementation of projects. IOM-Colombia is developing and implementing a strategy that offers a sensitive intervention framework to the interests and experiences of ethnic groups, including indigenous communities, to counteract existing inequalities and to obtain equal political, economic, social and cultural benefits. Further information on IOM-Colombia is included in section G below.

G. Information regarding recent programmes, budgetary allocations or projects/activities regarding indigenous peoples' issues

20. In 2008, IOM will launch a publication entitled "Indigenous routes: framework for understanding indigenous migration", which will analyse the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. The publication will examine many of the migration routes of indigenous peoples, with a focus on transborder migration, and will highlight the many challenges faced by indigenous peoples when forced to migrate from their territories. The publication, which also consider the opportunities that informed migration may bring to indigenous migrants and their communities, will be made available during the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2008.

21. The mandate of IOM is to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they displaced persons or other uprooted people. IOM is highly decentralized and service-oriented. As part of this field-driven approach, IOM field missions have developed and implemented various projects relevant to, and in partnership with, indigenous peoples and have undertaken efforts to ensure that all projects are culturally appropriate and sensitive. By way of illustration, the following paragraphs describe a sampling of IOM projects at the field level that involve indigenous peoples.

Chile

22. During 2007, IOM-Santiago provided resource administration to the national Corporation for Indigenous Development under the Ministry of Planning. In addition to that agreement, IOM-Chile is a past and current participant in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Human Rights Issues, both related to United Nations agencies operating in Chile. The latter group is working on the implementation of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples after his visit to Chile in 2003. For the moment, the group is preparing a round-table meeting with the Government, civil society and United Nations agencies to share opinions about the implementation of the Special Rapporteur's recommendations. Because of the

importance of those issues, this specific group, which comprises indigenous peoples, was created to work directly with those communities. Until now its main function was to include indigenous concerns in the agenda of the various agencies.

Costa Rica

23. In May 2007, the IOM-Costa Rica innovative project to improve the health of indigenous coffee pickers in southern Costa Rica, Finca Sana, was awarded $199,842 at the highly competitive World Bank Development Marketplace Competition. Less than 1 per cent of the 2,900 proposals originally submitted were funded after a long process which included jury interviews at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. Finca Sana aims to improve the health of members of the Ngöbe-Buglé indigenous tribe who migrate into Costa Rica from Panama each year to pick coffee. Project innovations include the inclusion of traditional healers as health promoters, a telehealth component to link them to local health workers and an emergency transport system. The model of care is also designed to be mobile, following the migrants as they move with the coffee harvest.

24. The Finca Sana project was developed together with local health authorities, the Costa Rica Social Security Fund and the public-health system of the region of Coto Brus to arrange for mobile teams to visit farms near the border since 2003. IOM and the Costa Rica Social Security Fund jointly developed the proposal, which supports and expands the mobile team efforts, while expanding activities to include local health promoters along the migration route. IOM and its partners began activities along the border in August 2007, at the start of the coffee season. The project will be carried out over the next two years.

25. An important new element of the Finca Sana project is that it will expand the health network to include indigenous people themselves, who are leaders, midwives and healers. IOM-Costa Rica is promoting communication in both directions between the target population and health authorities when previously the interaction was very top-down and non-participatory. Given the complexities of this intercultural interaction, indigenous peoples are being empowered and are substantially involved in projects.

26. IOM-Costa Rica is jointly identifying many needs of this group of coffee pickers including those of literacy, education, malnutrition, living conditions, labour rights and gender-based violence. With its partners, IOM-Costa Rica is working to identify new opportunities to jointly apply for funding to increase collaboration and avoid duplication. One proposal is to support a small cultural education project that is led by some health promoters, including indigenous leaders, on indigenous territories within Costa Rica. Currently, a small one-room school, for which IOM is seeking funds to expand, hosts Ngobere language classes as well as classes on traditional crafts, culture and history. IOM-Costa Rica is currently drafting proposals to support and expand these activities. With a longer-term goal to carry out coordination at the local level with health partners on both sides of the border, a future phase of this project may include expanded activities in Panama, particularly in Comarca in 2008.

27. Activities developed by IOM-Costa Rica are most related to Millennium Development Goals 4 (reduction of child mortality) and 5 (improvement of maternal health), with the objective to identify health emergencies of the most vulnerable, such as pregnant women and small children. About one third of the indigenous

community are children and another third are women, and most are assisted with transport to emergency care. Recognizing that access to health services for the Ngöbe-Buglé is extremely limited, and that because many indigenous workers are mostly undocumented they visit emergency rooms only when absolutely necessary, IOM-Costa Rica is working with health promoters to support mobile teams to address the health needs of this community, including better medical follow-up. Since the mobile teams often cannot visit each farm more than once, and parasites and malnutrition are a serious problem, IOM-Costa Rica's network of health promoters are able to follow up cases of child malnutrition. This project will be evaluated to assess its impact against a baseline health survey focused on maternal and child health.

28. With regard to activities related to data collection and disaggregation, IOM-Costa Rica is carrying out rigorous monitoring and evaluation activities, including a baseline survey focused on maternal and child health, already developed for use with indigenous populations in Central America. The survey has already undergone testing and is currently being carried out.

Ecuador

29. The activities of the IOM in Ecuador focus on support to indigenous Awa and Chachi communities and Afro-Ecuadorian communities through its Northern Border Development Programme. During the first months of the programme in 2002, its objective was to strengthen civil society through concrete activities that would contribute its development and allow its members to confront the existing challenges in the region. Other parts of the programme included strengthening organizational and leadership aspects, developing conflict resolution skills, promotion of sustainable development, gender participation and development of small production projects.

30. Past activities of IOM-Ecuador include the provision of support for the strengthening of the social organization of the Cofán indigenous community in the province of Sucumbios through the delimitation and legalization of their territories. This was completed within the framework of an agreement between the Foundation for the Survival of the Cofán People and IOM during 2001 and 2003. The project consisted of the delimitation of three blocks (Zábalo-Guepii, Sinangoe-Ccuccono and San Miguel-Bermejo) that belong to the Cofán reserve; the equipping of physical infrastructure for control and monitoring; the political incidence for the recognition of the rights of use, management, and control of those territories, be it through property rights or the establishment of Community Reserves or other types of agreements within the National System for Protected Land Areas.

31. Between 2001 and 2004, through a cooperation agreement between IOM and Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio, a project was carried out for the legalization of property rights of indigenous communities and peasant colonist families in the Province of Sucumbios. Activities included the bordering of lots, carrying out legal procedures for indigenous communities, inspection visits by El Instituto Nacionál de Desarrollo Agrario and the Ministry of Environment to communities and peasant farms, as well as the creation of a credit fund that could support families in the future. In total, 13 Quichua and 5 Shuar communities obtained property titles.

32. Other projects included the building of productive and social infrastructure projects to support indigenous peoples. Such activities have included the building of 10 pedestrian bridges benefiting 4,400 members of the Awa community in 2002, provision and training on the use and maintenance of three potable water systems in the areas of Balzayacu and Atahualpa in 2005, benefiting 1,250 Quichua and the Regional Sindy community; and potable water systems of Guadalito and Esmeraldas for 120 members of the Awa indigenous community. In 2007, IOM and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a long-term cooperation agreement, until the year 2010, to carry out projects along Ecuador's northern border region, with a focus on the Federation of Awa Indigenous Communities of Ecuador. The first of the projects includes the rehabilitation of three schools in San Lorenzo, Esmeraldas Province; health education materials for the health centre in Lita, Imbabura Province; and the rehabilitation of 3 health posts and the construction of 10 additional posts in the family and community health system.

Colombia

33. The general objective of the IOM mission in Colombia towards ethnic groups, including indigenous communities, is to collaborate with State entities, humanitarian, human rights and development organizations committed to promoting and guaranteeing the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples as well as Afro-Colombians in response to the needs of those populations. IOM-Colombia seeks to continue strengthening the strategy with the aim of providing a framework for the effective incorporation of an ethnic group's approach in the actions, programmes, projects and other initiatives carried out by IOM with governmental, departmental and municipal entities. IOM-Colombia's strategy is to include the participation of beneficiaries, counterparts from the private and public sector and civil society in order for the process to be inclusive and thereby inculcate a culture of transparency and good governance. Areas prioritized by IOM include education, health care, strengthening of institutions and communities, housing and infrastructure and income-generation.

34. IOM-Colombia has a full-time ethnic minorities specialist whose role includes working with indigenous peoples. During 2007, a differential approach in initiatives involving indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups was developed and formalized, which recognizes the principles of specificity, identity, equity, equality, participation, representation, impartiality, inter-ethnic relations and ethnic minorities' leadership. This approach is geared towards strengthening the cultural identity and the institutions of ethnic groups, promoting their effective participation and ensuring that ethnic groups benefit from the gains of well-being achieved by the society as a whole.

35. IOM-Colombia recognizes the need to include specific cultural characteristics of those communities in education, housing, health and productive services. Access to land, education, employment and basic services go hand in hand with their social and cultural needs. Those needs include respect for cultural identity (such as indigenous health practices and adaptation of the school curricula to cultural specificities), the possibility to actively participate in local and national decision-making, and concerns about discrimination as an obstacle in the access and fulfilment of their basic needs. IOM-Colombia has developed detailed guidelines for the inclusion of a differential approach for projects to be distributed to project implementers. Specific indicators for ethnic minorities, including indigenous

groups, will be created using that document. IOM-Colombia has also participated in the definition of criteria to be used to reward companies implementing social responsibility policies with ethnic minorities, organized by the Vice-Minister for Labour in the Ministry of Social Protection.

36. More specifically, the policy of IOM in programming considers the following aspects as key to success: (a) people are recognized as key actors in their own development, rather than passive recipients of commodities and services; (b) participation is both a means and a goal; (c) strategies are empowering, not disempowering; (d) both outcomes and processes are monitored and evaluated; (e) analysis includes all stakeholders; (f) the development process is locally owned; (g) programmes aim to reduce disparity; (h) both top-down and bottom-up approaches are used in synergy; (i) situation analysis is used to identify immediate, underlying and basic causes of development problems; (j) measurable goals and targets are important in programming; (k) strategic partnerships are developed and sustained; and (l) programmes support accountability to stakeholders.

37. Regarding the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by indigenous peoples, IOM-Colombia recognizes that poverty parameters do not adequately reflect the realities of many indigenous peoples. In response, IOM-Colombia is continuously providing support in strengthening effective participation and promoting indigenous individual and collective rights, reflected in the mission's principles for the application of the differential approach. More specifically, IOM-Colombia's strategy aims to: (a) mainstream ethnic minorities' rights into all strategies through applying a differential approach to overcome discrimination; (b) ensure participation of ethnic minorities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects; (c) disaggregate data; (d) creation of specific performance indicators; and (e) provide appropriate guidelines and training on the rights of ethnic minorities for IOM staff.

38. IOM-Colombia's Assistance Programme for Displaced People and Vulnerable Groups (Assistance Programme), in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, includes the project Protection of Land and Patrimonial Assets of Displaced Populations in Colombia, which has prioritized the differential approach for gender and ethnic minorities, including indigenous communities. More specifically, community and institutional capacity strengthening for the protection of territorial rights of ethnic groups affected by displacement in the Colombian Pacific Coast occurred in the following areas:

(a) Department of Chocó, Tadó municipality, the Alto San Juan area where the indigenous reservations of Bochoroma, Mondo, Tarena and Peñas del Olvido are located and which groups eight indigenous communities belonging to the Embera Wounan Regional Organization;

(b) Department of Nariño, Olaya Herrera, Franciso Pizarro (Salahonda) and Charco municipalities where the indigenous reservations of Eperara Siapidara de Rio Satinga, La Floresta-Santa Rosa, Sanquianguita, Integrado del Charco, San Juan Pampón and San Agustín are located and which groups 12 indigenous communities;

(c) Department of Cauca, Timbiqui municipality, where the Eperara Siapidara de la calle de Santa Rosa indigenous reservation is located and which groups two indigenous communities;

The community and institutional capacity strengthening in those regions includes basic training in ethnic legislation and design of a booklet for indigenous communities which will examine the legal framework that supports their organizations.

39. There are several other projects that are a part of the Assistance Programme, some of which are highlighted below:

(a) The project Strengthening of the contingency strategy against forced displacement of the Indigenous Council of the Kwet Wala Reserve was established within the Framework Agreement with the Valle del Cauca Governor's Office. This project aims to strengthen the Kwet Wala indigenous reservation through support and consolidation of their contingency plan against forced displacement. Activities include the construction and equipping of a community centre which can be used as temporary shelter and a protection area, and which in the future will continue to be used for permanent assemblies, community encounters and education activities for both children and adults;

(b) The project Humanitarian Emergency Assistance to the Awa Indigenous population through the implementation of infant assistance is meant to improve the conditions of the displaced population in emergency situations of the Awa community with the implementation of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare programmes;

(c) The project for the construction of houses on individually owned land — the Raymundo Chapuel Males Indigenous Reserve — will facilitate the construction of 42 houses in accordance with the traditions of the Pastos indigenous community. The initiative will assist in the prevention of forced displacement in the reservation;

(d) The project for the establishment of family gardens using organoponico technology for families belonging to displaced and vulnerable populations was established within the Framework Agreement with the Mayor's Office of Mocoa, Putumayo. The project aims to implement urban and peri-urban agricultural production initiatives aimed at improving food security for 300 families belonging to displaced and vulnerable populations, including indigenous families of the Yunguillo reserve. Included in the project are training courses in urban or peri-urban agriculture with thematic complements in leadership, community strengthening, nutritional education and consumption habits and food preparation;

(e) Regarding indigenous women, the projects Support to rural housing projects for displaced population and Support to co-financing for formulation of rural housing projects presented in the request for proposals for rural social housing subsidies for internally displaced persons, both assist heads of households that are indigenous women. The two projects contribute towards the improvement of the standard of living and also reduce overcrowding and the deficit of quantitative and qualitative housing for internally displaced families.

40. As part of the Post-Emergency Attention to Internally Displaced Populations in Colombia (Post-Emergency Programme), in partnership with Acción Social, displaced indigenous families are among those that are included in the Single Displaced Persons Registration System, and are eligible for economic stabilization services offered by the National System for Integral Assistance to Displaced Populations.

41. Many projects in the Support Programme for Ex-Combatant Children, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, target indigenous youth with the aim of preventing their recruitment into illegal armed groups, and supporting the return processes of indigenous and Afro-Colombian children and youths disengaged from such groups. The programme identifies and supports development opportunities and fosters coordination with authorities to preserve culture identity. Some projects in this programme include:

(a) Strengthening the traditional knowledge and practice of the Pastos indigenous group around the *Shagra* as an ancestral space to strengthen the sense of belonging and pride of indigenous roots among children and adolescents and discourage them from engaging in illicit activities. The initiative provides support in the creation and structuring of an integral education-participation model, where the *Shagra* is the centre of understanding the traditions, beliefs and customs of indigenous communities;

(b) In cooperation with the Colombia Institute of Family Welfare, another project focuses on creating opportunities for social inclusion and mitigation of threats to recruitment into illegal armed groups for Sikuanis indigenous children and youth in the Wacoyo reserve. This is being carried out through the implementation of a pedagogic-productive project where traditional knowledge is being used together with appropriate technologies in order to achieve sustainable productive systems and also strengthen the social fabric;

(c) Indigenous youth belonging to the Guambianos, Paeces and Yanoconas communities in the Silvia, Toes and Sotará municipalities, Department of Cauca are also the focus of a project that supports fostering community economic initiatives oriented at their self-sufficiency in order to avoid recruitment into illegal armed groups. The indigenous youth are highly involved in the initiative which also has a strong gender perspective. Another project aimed at indigenous youth in the Department of Cauca aims at strengthening 10 agricultural and livestock colleges and ethno-education by improving the quality of agricultural and livestock technical education and its pertinence to rural development;

(d) For the Arhauco indigenous community in Pueblo Bello Municipality, Department of Cesar, opportunities for economic development and food security will help reduce the vulnerability of youth who are at risk of being recruited into illegal armed groups. A project to produce soap and essential oils is currently being implemented using native aromatic plants species and involving indigenous youth as an economic strategy against recruitment into illegal armed groups. The initiative also provides social insertion opportunities to ex-combatant youth;

(e) In San Antonio de los Palmitos Municipality, Montes de Maria, Department of Sucre, a project endeavours to strengthen youth participation and organization, recuperation of cultural identity and implementation of productive projects, including through implementing a project to produce type of straw using traditional methods that involves youth and families belonging to the Zenú indigenous group;

(f) Zenú indigenous and Afro-Colombian youth also participate in the Youth Leadership School in Montes de Maria, engaging in training and strengthening youth organization and participation.

42. The Emergency Assistance Programme for Colombians in Search of International Protection in Ecuadorian, Panamanian and Venezuelan Border Areas with Colombia, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, provides indigenous communities with effective short-term direct emergency assistance and capacity-building of local civil society organizations to address basic human needs, including water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, nutrition, shelter, health services, education and income-generation activities. Parts of the programme also concentrate on capacity-building initiatives for local organizations in order for them to provide better and quicker responses to emergencies. Some ongoing and completed activities include:

(a) Providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the Awa indigenous group seeking international protection in Chica;

(b) Improvement of the Carlos Azuero Añasco School as an alternative shelter for water and sanitation and improvement of the potable water system at Santa Rosa de Cascales for the Quichua indigenous community;

(c) Support to the Quichua and Siona indigenous groups through the provision of emergency educational kits to the border schools;

(d) Assistance and support for documentation and registration to the Refugee Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

43. The social marketing unit of IOM-Colombia works to improve the stability of vulnerable communities in Colombia by assessing sustainable income-generation projects implemented by producers belonging to vulnerable groups who were victims of human trafficking, anti-personnel mines, internal displacement and illegal armed groups. Marketing projects include the Anei organic coffee produced by the Arhauco indigenous group of Sierra Nevada and the essential oils and handmade soaps produced by the Seymukekun Association (a group comprising young indigenous peoples belonging to the Arhauco indigenous community of Sierra Nevada) using native plant species of Sierra Nevada, Santa Marta.

44. Personnel-related activities of IOM-Colombia with respect to indigenous peoples include an equal opportunity policy for ethnic groups for personnel recruitment as well as in the election of project implementing entities and coordinating the internship programme for students from ethnic minorities to be implemented in seven of its regional offices. Terms of reference have also been created for ethnic minorities' focal points in programmes. The monitoring and evaluation unit of IOM-Colombia is providing support in the identification of best practices and lessons learned in projects implemented with ethnic minorities which include indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities; the creation of specific indicators to evaluate the differential approach towards ethnic minorities during the full project cycle in programmes and projects implemented by the mission; and the collection of disaggregated data on ethnic groups from the various programmes implemented by IOM-Colombia. By March 2008, the IOM-Colombia website[2] section on ethnic minorities will have updated information on all ongoing and finalized projects with beneficiaries from ethnic minorities, including indigenous communities.

[2] See http://oim.org.co/modulos/contenido/default.asp?idmodulo=11&idioma=ing.

H. Capacity-building on indigenous issues

45. IOM has a number of headquarters and field personnel who are actively engaged in indigenous issues and/or projects. A formal capacity-building programme is highlighted under section G above on IOM-Colombia.

I. Information regarding activities on the goals, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

46. The projects highlighted under section G above encapsulate a number of IOM activities that are relevant to the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in the areas of culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development.

J. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum

47. While there are a number of factors that displace indigenous peoples from their lands and territories, climate change brings about its own specific challenges that demand the attention of the international community to respond to what has been called environmental migration. The environmental migration of indigenous peoples may be caused by the gradual environmental degradation of their lands, resources and territories or may be caused by sudden and extreme climatic events, such as a landslide or flooding. In either case, the marginalization of indigenous peoples is a key social determinant in worsening the impact of those phenomena.

48. According to research, indigenous peoples' lands face more vulnerability owing in some cases to their remoteness, and because a number of indigenous communities rely heavily on their territories for their livelihood. Thus, indigenous peoples are faced with the initial and harshest impacts of climate change, which prompt their migration or displacement. Also, extractive industries or major development works may generate adverse effects on the environment in which indigenous people live. In cases where the survival of indigenous peoples depends on seasonal crops, fishing seasons, and other resources from their bio-diverse territories, the impacts of climate change, including the destruction of the ecology and livelihood, has forced indigenous communities to migrate. Many of them, because of their intrinsic cultural ties to their lands, may opt for temporary or circular migration for work to generate supplementary income through remittances. However, as environmental degradation continues, many may be faced with permanent migration due to the loss of their territories.

49. In their host destination, indigenous peoples may face double discrimination as both migrants and as indigenous peoples. Because of the discrimination or isolation already felt by indigenous peoples, their need to migrate owing to environmental factors may be hampered by limited legal migration options. With limited opportunities to make an informed choice to migrate, or because of sudden displacement by a climatic event, indigenous peoples may be more vulnerable to forced migration, such as trafficking and smuggling.

50. Indigenous communities can play an important role in preserving the sustainability of their environment and ecosystem and prevent their economic dislocation and physical displacement. For this, they must become co-authors of any plans to counteract the adverse effects of climate change on their environment. Furthermore, for centuries indigenous peoples have relied on their traditional knowledge to sustain their lifestyles and their territories, and it is for this reason that indigenous peoples must be involved in all plans regarding the preservation of their lands and of local wildlife, including plans to prevent deforestation, drought or the extinction of certain plants and animals.

51. More specifically, in Colombia, IOM recognizes the role that indigenous people and other ethnic minorities have played and continue to play in the conservation of the environment. Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations in rural areas of Colombia are highly dependent on the existing resources in their territories and, at the same time, their traditional knowledge plays an important role in the conservation of those resources. IOM promotes the use of traditional knowledge in projects involving those populations, and provides institutional support for the recognition and respect of their environmental and territorial rights in national and international legal legislation and, consequently, their effect on environmental protection. IOM also supports the recognition and effective application of the rights of indigenous people to their natural resources, including genetic resources, and their knowledge, technologies, traditional practices and innovations, and supports the full and effective participation of representatives of ethnic minorities in international meetings in which matters relating to land, territories and environment are discussed. Ultimately, actions that lead to the adverse effects of climate change need to be reversed in order for indigenous peoples not to be forced to migrate for environmental reasons.

K. List of conferences and other meetings on indigenous issues in 2007-2008

52. In January 2008, IOM participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages which was organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

53. The focal point for ethnic groups and indigenous issues for IOM-Colombia also participates in meetings and events in Colombia. These include the Committee for the promotion of participation of ethnic minorities in national labour policies within the Ministry of Social Protection, the United States Agency for International Development inter-institutional Committee on Afro-Colombian issues, and the Working Group for Afro-Colombian Issues under the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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Seventh session
New York, 21 April-2 May 2008
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Environment Programme**

Summary

The present report responds to recommendations made to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, where applicable and relevant. Furthermore, it addresses the main activities, programmes and projects that UNEP has been undertaking with indigenous peoples and on indigenous issues. A special focus has been placed on the Arctic indigenous peoples and climate change. These projects, as well as the enhanced engagement and participation of indigenous peoples as a major group in the regional and the global annual civil society meetings, as well as the Governing Council sessions of UNEP, have seen considerable development and progress in recent years. UNEP plays a significant role in catalysing action to protect the environment through collaboration with the multitude of major groups actors who share the same purpose. The UNEP strategy on enhancing major groups engagement is based on engagement at the policy level to take into account the expertise and views of major groups at the intergovernmental level, and on the programmatic level in implementation of the UNEP work programme. In the current 2007-2008 regional and global civil society meeting cycle, three indigenous representatives were elected from civil society representatives to represent either their region or their major group

* E/C.19/2008/1.

** Submission of the present report was delayed in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

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at the upcoming ninth Global Civil Society Forum and tenth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held in Monaco in February 2008. This improved participation is correcting the previous underrepresentation of indigenous peoples as a major group and brings the regional and local perspective of indigenous peoples and their communities regarding today's environmental challenges onto the global agenda of UNEP.

UNEP would especially like to bring to the attention of the Forum the work it has initiated following a recommendation to UNEP from the Forum in 2006 to develop a specific policy on indigenous peoples. That important task is under way and will also address the UNEP contribution to the realization of the declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples. A first draft of the declaration was discussed with indigenous peoples representatives during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Bali in December 2007, and is being revised through widespread consultations in January and February 2008. UNEP also launched a website on indigenous peoples issues in March 2007.[a]

[a] http://www.unep.org/indigenous/.

I. Responses to recommendations addressed exclusively to the United Nations Environment Programme under one or more areas of the Permanent Forum mandate on Indigenous Issues

1. No recommendations were made to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session.

A. Recommendations made by the Forum at its fifth session[1]

Paragraph 15

2. In 2006, UNEP initiated work towards a UNEP indigenous peoples strategy by drafting a document in order to respond to the recommendation of the Forum in 2006. During the UNEP Governing Council held in Nairobi in February 2007, 15 indigenous peoples representatives were asked about their priorities, interests and concerns regarding the environment, UNEP work and possible ways of engagement. Their priorities were integrated in the first draft of the UNEP indigenous peoples strategy. Remaining funds, although limited, allowed UNEP to plan and undertake a consultation process among indigenous peoples organizations, the Inter-Agency Support Group as well as UNEP staff, with the assistance of two organizations. A first draft was developed which was discussed in Bali during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with approximately 50 indigenous peoples representatives. An electronic consultation among approximately 250 indigenous peoples organizations as well as Inter-Agency Support Group members is currently being undertaken. A consultation among UNEP staff will be organized for the months of February and March 2008. It is planned to present the consolidated version of the draft to the Executive Director later in the year for his approval. Due to a limited funding situation, the consultation process and the time and the amount of persons to be consulted is restricted. It is hoped to organize relevant consultative meetings or side events in the Forum or similar relevant forums to take the draft further in its development in the future.

B. Recommendations made by the Forum at its second session[2]

Paragraph 50

3. At its second session, the Forum recommended that the United Nations Environment Programme report on the feasibility of developing mechanisms for indigenous peoples to participate in the persistent organic pollutants global monitoring programme and the evaluation process under the Stockholm Convention.

4. During the ninth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Dubai in February 2006, the International Conference on Chemical Management

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43).
[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43).

adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.[3] This global initiative is aimed at making chemicals safer for humans and the planet and covers risk assessments of chemicals and harmonized labelling up to tackling obsolete and stockpiled products. Over 100 environment and health ministers agreed to meet the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

5. Among the institutions or networks working towards the elimination of pollutants is the International Persistent Organic Pollutant Elimination Network (IPEN). The mission of IPEN is to work for the global elimination of persistent organic pollutants, on an expedited yet socially equitable basis.[4]

6. UNEP has a specific mercury programme based in the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. In its decision 21/5, the UNEP Governing Council invited UNEP to undertake a global assessment of mercury and its compounds to be presented to the Governing Council at its session in February 2003. The global mercury assessment report was published in December 2002. At its twenty-fourth regular session, in February 2007, the Governing Council recognized that efforts to reduce risks from mercury were not sufficient to address the global challenges posed by mercury and concluded that further long-term international action is required. In decision 24/3, it called for a review and assessment of the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments in order to make progress in addressing this issue. Two major areas of work set out in the decision comprise the strengthening of the UNEP mercury programme partnerships and the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments. The open-ended working group met in November 2007 and will provide a progress report and a further report to the twenty-fifth session of the UNEP Governing Council (see http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm).

Paragraph 56

7. The concept of an extensive global survey as originally planned, including wide stakeholder and indigenous peoples participation, had to be abandoned due to the lack of timely received funds. UNEP and UNESCO, together with the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, held various consultative meetings on the approach of a survey on environment and cultural diversity, as requested in UNEP Governing Council decision GC 22/16. The final report took into account previous studies, in-house research on the topic, as well as the findings and results of the consultative meetings with UNESCO and the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, and makes suggestions for possible developments in the area of environment and cultural diversity for UNEP. No decision was taken nor adopted by the Governing Council on the topic during its twenty-third session, in 2005. The report on environment and cultural diversity is also downloadable from the UNEP website.[5]

[3] http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/.

[4] For more information on IPEN and other networks working with pollutants elimination, see http://ipen.ecn.cz/index.php?z=&l=en&k=home.

[5] UNEP/GC.23/INF/23; available at http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-INF23.pdf.

Paragraph 71

8. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants entered into force on 17 May 2004 and targets 12 hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals. The Stockholm Convention made its debut on the world stage in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 2 to 6 May 2005, at a meeting of 800 government officials and observers committed to ridding the world of some of the most dangerous chemicals ever created. While the risk level varies from one persistent organic pollutant to another, they all share four properties: they are highly toxic; they are stable and persistent, lasting for years or decades before degrading into less dangerous forms; they evaporate and travel long distances through the air and through water; and they accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife. It was the contamination of marine mammals and thus the presence of persistent organic pollutants in the human food chain of indigenous peoples in the Arctic that were among the first alarm signs, waking the world to the threats of these long lived, hard to break down, hazardous chemicals.[6]

II. Responses to recommendations addressed to two or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general under one or more items of the Forum's mandate/agenda

A. Recommendations made by the Forum at its third session[7]

Paragraphs 5 and 75

9. The UNEP programme of work 2004-2005 included a commitment to make gender a cross-cutting priority in all of its programmes. In the domain of international environment governance, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building requests UNEP to integrate specific gender-mainstreaming strategies, as well as education and training for women, in formulating relevant policies, and to promote the participation of women in environmental decision-making. In 2004, pursuant to the Global Women's Assembly on the Environment, Governing Council decision 23/11 on gender equality in the field of the environment underlined the need to improve UNEP internal capacity in these respects.[8]

10. UNEP Governing Council decision GC 23/11 does not address explicitly indigenous women but has many entry points to include indigenous women's concerns and issues in its implementation, for example regarding the importance of integrating into national sustainable development strategies and into poverty reduction strategy papers gender equality and the particular role of women as natural resource managers, as well as to develop, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, a mentorship programme which would encourage young women to take an active role in environmental policy formulation and decision-making.

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[6] For more information, see: http://www.pops.int/.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23* (E/2004/43).

[8] See http://www.unep.org/gc/gc23/documents/GC23-Proceedings.doc.

11. In April 2005, a comprehensive implementation plan was drafted which defines the role that UNEP will play in stimulating and facilitating efforts, both in-house and with partners at the national, regional and global levels, to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities to promote gender equality and equity within the environmental sector. The plan outlines a framework for integrating a gender perspective within all UNEP divisions, branches, units and activities during the period 2006-2010. It establishes strategies with reachable targets and proposes instruments to address gender concerns in UNEP technical areas. UNEP substantive activities under the plan are concentrated in four spheres: policy, organizational, delivery and constituency. The following extract from its introduction is relevant to indigenous peoples:

> "Gender equality and equity are prerequisites to poverty eradication and sustainable development. The livelihoods of rural and indigenous peoples and those of communities living in poverty are often closely tied to the environment. In these communities, women play a leading role in caring for their families and communities, in sharing their intellectual and social capital, and in protecting and managing natural resources. In many societies, both women and men are agents of change, but their contributions do not receive equal recognition. Gender equality between women and men has a cumulative effect of improved environmental management and protection and poverty alleviation for communities."[9]

12. A senior gender adviser was appointed in 2007 to UNEP to organize and implement the UNEP action plan for gender. UNEP began implementing its gender plan of action from late 2006, with a series of gender mainstreaming workshops for UNEP staff and senior management at the division and regional office level. As of December 2007, a strong gender team composed of 40 representatives from the divisions and regional offices has been established. The gender team members are regular staff members who have been nominated by their senior management to work with the senior gender adviser in mainstreaming gender into UNEP work and follow through the implementation of the gender plan of action.[10]

B. Recommendations made by the Forum at its second session[11]

Paragraph 79

13. UNEP is currently undertaking a revision of previous work undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on children's environmental health issues. The 2002 publication *Children in the New Millennium: Environmental Impact on Health* is currently being reviewed and updated in order to mainstream indigenous children's health in various chapters. The book as a whole deals with different environmental threats to child health. It aims to reflect the most current research and examples, and is written in the form of basic, practical messages for the country and community levels. It is modelled on the acclaimed UNICEF "Facts for life" publications. The focus of the publication is translating knowledge that has been gained into

[9] For the full action plan, see http://www.unep.org/civil_society/PDF_docs/Unep-Gender-Action-Plan-5Feb07.pdf.

[10] For further information and details, see also http://www.unep.org/gender_env/.

[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43).

implementation/capacity-building at the country level — taking advantage of the blend of normative and operational strengths that the UNEP-UNICEF-WHO partnership offers.

III. Information regarding the Forum's special emphasis on indigenous children and youth[12]

14. UNEP has expanded its network for children and youth organizations, increased the frequency and substantive base of its processes for young people and signed several partnership agreements with youth-related organizations. UNEP has also increased the frequency and regularity of its conferences and publications for children and youth. Tunza conferences for young people are held every year (one year for children and the next year for youth). The Tunza magazine is published on a quarterly basis, and a series of Tunza environmental storybooks for children is published regularly. Regional and subregional networks have been developed and UNEP regional offices have active programmes for young people. The programme is divided into four focus areas: information exchange, awareness-building, youth in decision-making processes and capacity-building.[13]

15. The Tunza International Youth Conference, held in Leverkusen, Germany, in August 2007, had four indigenous youth representatives — two from Canada and two from Ecuador. In addition to attending the Conference, the four youth were accorded the opportunity to share their experience on their environmental work with 120 other young people from other countries. This opportunity also enabled them to join a global network of young people working on environment which continues to share information on the environment, beyond the conference.

16. The 2008 International Children's Conference has applications from indigenous children and efforts will be made by UNEP headquarters to ensure the representation of indigenous children in the Conference. The Conference will be held in Norway in June 2008. The Conference, whose theme is "A climate for change", will increase the children's understanding of environmental issues by providing them with a forum to share experiences and collectively voice their concerns for the environment. The daily topics of the Conference are "Energy", "Biodiversity", "Water" and "Production and consumption". The Conference will bring together 1,000 children and their chaperones from 104 countries.

17. Within 2008, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will host five subregional meetings, while the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean will host four subregional meetings. Both meetings will invite youth representatives from the indigenous communities to participate and share their experience and concern, as well as learn from the other participants about various environmental issues.

18. The Tunza magazine on forests published in late 2007 has articles on indigenous people and forests, while the Tunza magazine of 2006 on indigenous people and their ways of life continue to be distributed widely to youth organizations around the world; 10,000 copies of each series are distributed

[12] See also discussion above on the revised publication *Children in the New Millennium: Environmental Impact on Health*.

[13] For the whole programme, see http://www.unep.org/Tunza/.

worldwide to youth organizations. The web version of the magazines are also available on the UNEP Tunza website, which has a readership of 180,000 per month.

19. In 2007 UNEP published a children's book, *Tore and the Town on Thin Ice*, which is based on indigenous peoples in the Arctic and raises concerns on climate change. In the storybook, practical suggestions are made on mitigating the effects of climate change.

20. A new children's book to be published in 2008, *Togu and the Trees of Life*, also depicts a local community and its fear of the depleting forest on which it depends, and offers suggestions on how to conserve this important resource.

IV. Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Forum

21. The main obstacle UNEP faces in implementing policies, programmes and projects relevant to indigenous peoples is inadequacy of staff resources as well as lack of funds.

V. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations of the Forum

22. The adoption of the declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples will most likely become a facilitating factor in the future.

VI. Policies on indigenous peoples issues

23. As noted in paragraph 2 above, UNEP has initiated relevant steps and a draft is being circulated for comments from indigenous peoples and the Inter-Agency Support Group as well as UNEP staff.

VII. Other significant information regarding recent programmes, budgetary allocations and activities regarding indigenous issues

24. The project entitled "Indigenous peoples participation in the mapping of traditional forest resources for sustainable livelihoods and great ape conservation" is a collaboration between different UNEP programmes, namely between the Great Apes Survival Project and Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, and is being implemented by the World Wildlife Fund and the Forest Peoples Program/UK in Cameroon. The objective of the project is to engage the Baka peoples in Cameroon to participate effectively in protected areas management where great apes are under protection. It aims to support such communities to document through participatory mapping techniques their forest resource uses and to establish a dialogue with governmental and non-governmental conservation agencies in order to devise joint plans for the protection of community forest uses and the conservation of great ape species. The project's results are expected in July 2008.

25. The UNEP initiative "Mainstreaming environment and sustainability into African universities" is a UNEP flagship programme for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and its aim is to mainstream environment and sustainability concerns into the teaching, research, community engagement and management of universities in Africa. The programme provides a platform of dialogue among universities, civil society, communities and the private sector on sustainable development. It also aims to create opportunities for collaborative projects between the above-mentioned stakeholders.[14]

26. Global climate change has brought new challenges for education and training around the world. UNEP recognizes that environmental education needs to incorporate a better understanding and application of indigenous knowledge and traditional coping strategies in the context of climate change.

27. UNEP was formally requested by the Government of Nigeria to carry out a comprehensive environmental assessment of the Ogoni region and recommend suitable remedies based upon its findings. This request to UNEP was made as part of the broader Government-led peace and reconciliation initiative in the region, and within the programme framework for improving human development in the Niger delta, led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

28. UNEP has been engaged in negotiations with a wide range of stakeholders on this major project for over a year. Parties involved in this ongoing process include the Government of Nigeria, at both the federal and state levels, the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, and local residents and representatives, who attended a series of town-hall meetings conducted in 2007 at the community level. Bilateral meetings have also been held with representatives of particular interest groups. In addition, interviews have been conducted in Port Harcourt to recruit local project staff, including community liaison officers, who will work closely with residents of the four local government areas involved so as to ensure an optimum level of engagement with local residents.

29. The comprehensive environmental assessment will be led by the UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, which has conducted field-based, scientifically rigorous and politically neutral environmental assessments in more than 25 crisis-affected countries since its inception in 1999. As is each time the case, the survey of oil-impacted sites in Ogoniland will be scientifically independent, open and subject to scrutiny by the international scientific community.

30. The project will be undertaken in a manner that maximizes benefits to the community. Indeed, a number of measures have been taken to ensure that local communities are made aware of the project and are consulted, included and informed of progress at every stage of the mission, including:

31. UNEP will recruit community members from the four local government areas to act as community liaison officers for the project. As representatives of UNEP, community liaison staff will monitor local events and developments, ensure that the mission objectives and plans are communicated into the wider community and local government agencies, and manage consultative meetings with their communities. Community liaison staff will also act as an intermediary between local communities

[14] For more information, see www.unep.org/training.

and UNEP technical teams and establish a system of feedback to ensure that all community concerns and priorities are reported back into the project.

32. To ensure that the project objectives and plans are fully communicated to local audiences, UNEP will hold community consultations with the people of Ogoniland. The consultations will be organized through community liaison staff. UNEP actively encourages all community members to participate in these consultations to ensure that the needs and concerns of specific demographic groups — such as women, youth, academia, religious and traditional rulers — are met.

33. Campaigns will be implemented to raise awareness of the project at the local level. UNEP will ensure that regular press releases are circulated to local, national and international news teams, advising of the most up-to-date mission information. Regular interviews will be scheduled with local television and radio stations — allowing for details of the mission to be broadcast to a wider audience. A series of eye-catching posters and leaflets will also be distributed in local communities, advising of the UNEP project and progress. English, Pidgin and regional languages will be used. Finally, UNEP will make use of less conventional verbal and physical information-providing methods such as public speakers, town criers and street theatre performance.

34. In partnership with UNDP, UNEP aims to support Ogoni communities by building local capacity through training programmes. The programmes will be designed to strengthen local knowledge and enable communities to enhance their institutional and individual capabilities for development with minimal damage to the environment. Capacity-building programmes will include training on:

(a) Imparting sound environmental practices in every initiative (e.g., building);

(b) Providing technical support for implementation of regional — and possibly national or global — environmental policies;

(c) Encouraging public participation in environmental awareness and management by enhancing access to environmental information.

35. While the project was originally intended to commence mid-2007 and be completed by end-2008, the deterioration in the security situation has precluded fieldwork from starting. However, UNEP remains ready to mobilize at the earliest possible opportunity.[15]

36. Regarding the UNEP dams and development project, indigenous people have been addressed permanently along the process as one of the most vulnerable stakeholder groups affected by dam construction and operation. The aim of the project was to improve decision-making, planning and management of dams and their alternatives. The main efforts of the project focused on the strengthening of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure that environmental and social issues are duly accounted for in order to attain sustainable outcomes. Project activities were carried out on a multi-stakeholder basis, and indigenous groups were represented on the project steering committee. The participation of indigenous peoples' representatives was relevant at the global dialogue channelled through

[15] For more information on the UNEP undertaking in Ogoniland, see http://postconflict.unep.ch/ogoniland/.

project forum meetings, issues-based workshops and side events at relevant international meetings as well as the national dialogue activities carried out in about 20 countries all over the world.

37. The compendium on relevant practices for improved decision-making on dams and their alternatives constitutes one of the major outcomes of the project. It deals with a set of key issues concerning environmental and social aspects of dams and their alternatives. Stakeholder participation, including that of indigenous peoples, is a cross-cutting issue throughout the publication, in addition to being the subject of a separate chapter.[16] The project came to an end in April 2007; however, UNEP has elaborated on a programme proposal to mainstream environmental sustainability in planning and management of infrastructure-building on the experience and outcomes of the project.

38. The programmatic approach involves the documentation and dissemination of relevant practices addressing four major thematic clusters at the global, regional and national levels to strengthen normative and planning frameworks, to transfer technology and to train decision makers, managers and stakeholders in general. The clusters are options assessment, stakeholder participation, environmental assessments, and management and compliance. Stakeholder participation cuts across all four clusters besides being one itself, and it involves indigenous peoples as a most important group affected by planning and management of infrastructure.

39. Since 2004, all publications under the UNEP tourism programme that have focused on capacity-building at the local level have included the engagement of local communities and indigenous people as a priority element to have a sustainable tourism development. In particular, the publication *Tourism and Deserts: A Practical Guide to Managing the Social and Environmental Impacts*[17] has been used by some United Nations agencies and NGOs, among others, to train local communities (Tourneys, sub-Saharan tribes). The publication *Tourism and Mountains* has also been used to train local communities in Nepal.[18] These guides have a dedicated chapter on the engagement of local communities.

40. The Indigenous Peoples Network for Change project, a UNEP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) project initiated in 2005, is a global indigenous peoples initiative aimed at advancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by strengthening the capacity and knowledge of indigenous peoples to participate in processes surrounding the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international instruments. The project focuses on the achievement of four key outcomes:

(a) Increased awareness and capacity of indigenous peoples, with particular focus on indigenous women, with respect to the Convention and GEF and their processes;

(b) Increased contribution to and participation in the Convention and GEF processes at the national, regional and international levels by indigenous peoples, particularly women;

[16] See also www.unep.org/dams.

[17] http://www.unep.fr/pc/tourism/library/Desert%20Guide.htm.

[18] http://www.unep.fr/pc/tourism/library/TourismandMountain.htm.

(c) Effective regional and international coordination of the interaction of indigenous peoples with the Convention and GEF;

(d) Establish strategic partnerships and improved existing partnerships leading to a greater participation and emphasis on the role of indigenous peoples in conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity resources.

41. To realize these four key objectives, the project will implement an integrated range of activities involving capacity-building and information-sharing at the national and regional levels, dissemination and sharing of information between regions, partnership-building with relevant organizations at every level, and facilitation of participation in international processes.

42. In 2006, UNEP undertook a specific outreach and partnership campaign targeting indigenous peoples as a major group to provide technical support on environmental processes and to address their underrepresentation in the Global Civil Society Forum cycle. As a consequence of UNEP support, indigenous peoples representatives attended four of the regional consultation meetings and the eighth Global Civil Society Forum and Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session, attesting the improved engagement of indigenous peoples and their communities in the policy development.[19] To date, eight indigenous peoples organizations are accredited to UNEP. It is hoped that more organizations will consider accreditation to UNEP in the future.[20]

43. UNEP has produced the *Global Environment Outlook* (GEO) reports providing assessments of the interactions between environment and society since 1997. The GEO report mandate is to keep the global environment under review, for which UNEP coordinated a series of scientific assessments that included extensive consultations and participatory processes, resulting in the production of GEO reports in 1997, 1999 and 2002. The fourth assessment, *Global Environment Outlook: Environment for Development* (GEO 4), is the most comprehensive GEO process to date and was published in October 2007. It was designed to ensure synergy between science and policy, while maintaining its scientific credibility and making it responsive to policy needs and objectives. Various chapters within GEO 4 make reference to indigenous peoples and their communities, namely in the context of how chemicals affect Arctic peoples, on interactions between biodiversity and culture notably the worldwide distribution of various levels of biodiversity with the distribution of languages, giving a grade of biocultural diversity, traditional knowledge, the polar regions and climate change as well as adaptation strategies.[21]

44. The "Many strong voices" programme is a unique alliance between the Arctic and small island developing States that aims to ensure the well-being of those regions in the face of climate change. It is driven by the need to protect the cultures, economies and environments of Arctic communities and small island developing States from the Caribbean, Pacific and other regions — two groups which are among those most affected by climate change.[22]

45. Work continued in 2007 to build the programme and support partners, which includes indigenous peoples from the Arctic and small island developing States. The

[19] http://www.unep.org/indigenous/.

[20] For the accreditation modalities, see http://www.unep.org/civil_society/About/accreditation.asp.

[21] See http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/.

programme held a successful stakeholders workshop in Belize in May 2007, coordinated by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, based in Norway, and the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research — Oslo, and hosted by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, based in Belmopan, Belize. The participants represented communities and organizations in the Arctic and small island developing States and came from 16 countries and regions, including Alaska, the Caribbean, Norway, Fiji, the Canadian Arctic, Micronesia, Greenland and French Polynesia. The workshop was funded by the Government of Norway and the United States National Science Foundation.

46. Workshop participants highlighted similar climate change effects, including the relocation of communities away from coastal areas due to sea level rise and frequent storm surges, and the human and economic impacts of changes to the marine resources upon which Arctic and small island developing States communities depend. Common issues included:

(a) The effects of climate change are being seen, felt and dealt with today in both the Arctic and small island developing States;

(b) Action on both adaptation and mitigation is urgently needed in the two regions;

(c) People in affected regions must have their voices heard in the adaptation and mitigation discussions at the local, regional and international levels;

(d) An alliance between the Arctic and small island developing States is vitally needed to protect the interests of both regions and work together on common issues relating to climate change.

47. The workshop attracted international and regional media attention, where indigenous peoples perspectives featured prominently in this coverage.

48. The "Many strong voices" programme supported partners from the Arctic and small island developing States in their efforts at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This was done by bringing people to the COP as speakers, organizing daily briefings, ensuring that the MSV messages were incorporated into a number of side event presentations, participating in joint outreach efforts, distributing written information, building the network, and establishing contact with new potential donors. An important part of this work was facilitating the drafting of an indigenous peoples statement.

49. The experience in Bali showed that there is a strong desire by people in the Arctic and small island developing States to join forces, support each other and coordinate activities in the context of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. GRID-Arendal is continuing to work with partners, including developing a five-year plan for the programme.[23]

50. An Integrated Ecosystem Management Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimise Habitat Fragmentation in Three Selected Model Areas in the Russian Arctic is a GEF-sponsored project initiated by Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council and the Russian Federation. The Management Approach is using an integrated ecosystem management strategy to

conserve biodiversity and minimize habitat fragmentation in three selected model areas in the Russian Arctic.

51. The model areas selected for the Management Approach are Kolguev Island in Nenets Autonomous Okrug, the Lower Kolyma River Basin in Yakutia (Sakha Republic), and the Beringovsky District in Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. The purpose of the Management Approach is to help to secure the integrity of some of the world's last remaining pristine areas and support livelihoods of indigenous and local peoples.

52. The project started in 2003 and will be completed in 2009. The Russian Association for Indigenous Peoples of the North is represented in the steering committee of the Management Approach.[24]

53. Environmental Co-management by Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North is a multi-year demonstration project under the UNEP/GEF project entitled "Russian Federation: support to the national programme of action for the protection of the Arctic marine environment". The project lead is the Batani Fund of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North.

54. The purpose of the demonstration project is to examine new effective mechanisms to balance the interests of indigenous peoples and industry in the Russian North. The demonstration project will operate in three model areas — Yamal Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Nenets Autonomous Okrug and Sakha Republic/Yakutia. The models will examine ways to ensure that the needs and rights of indigenous peoples are protected as industrial development proceeds. They will also provide industry with a forum to meet stakeholders and government and allow for the kind of planning that takes into account the needs of all parties.

55. The role of UNEP/GRID-Arendal in this project is to research and write a collection of case studies on indigenous co-management in Alaska, Canada and Scandinavia. The case studies are due in January 2008 and will be translated into Russian and used as background information for the project.

56. UNEP/GRID-Arendal edited and produced the World Environment Day assessment, *Global Outlook for Ice and Snow*, released on 5 June 2007. Contributing authors were asked to prepare content on impacts and issues related to indigenous people, and this material was featured in several chapters; overall guidance was provided by an Arctic indigenous member of the steering committee; and the final "Perspectives" section included brief write-ups on indigenous and local perspectives for the Arctic, small island developing States and the Himalayas.[25]

VIII. Capacity-building programmes

57. UNEP does not have a specific programme for capacity-building for staff on indigenous issues. It might be suggested in the course of the development of the UNEP strategy on indigenous peoples issues and then taken up in the future.

[24] http://www.grida.no/ecora/.

[25] http://www.unep.org/geo/geo%5Fice/PDF/full_report_LowRes.pdf.

IX. Activities regarding the goal, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

58. Through its ongoing process of developing a strategy on indigenous issues, UNEP will also include in its strategy relevant aspects and recommendations towards the implementation of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. UNEP is already working towards the enhancement of civil society engagement in general within its organizational structures, and strengthening the engagement of specific major groups, including indigenous peoples and their communities.

59. The UNEP Division on Environmental Law and Conventions is actively supporting various activities and initiatives on the role of local and indigenous communities. With regard to discussions under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Division is supporting negotiations on development of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing. In addition, the Division closely follows and provides advice and inputs into the activities under the implementation of work programmes related to article 8 (j) of the Convention related to traditional knowledge. Currently, the Division is implementing a project on the role of communities in implementation of the Convention at the local level in Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Global Environmental Information Centre in Japan.

60. The Division, in collaboration with the United Nations University, undertook a capacity-building project in the South Pacific region on the theme "Role of customary law and practices in access and benefit-sharing, and traditional knowledge". The project provided a space for dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experience between different stakeholders about traditional knowledge and indigenous customary law for natural resources management.

61. Generally speaking, the UNEP projects located in the polar regions are responding to many of the suggestions and recommendations made on environmental issues within the action plan of the Second International Decade on the World's Indigenous Peoples. The projects described above make reference to climate change and other stressors, as well as adaptation and management of environmental and social impacts of climate change.

62. The UNEP projects on indigenous knowledge in disaster management in the Arctic region of the Russian Federation and African countries respond to paragraph 64 of the action plan, namely to develop and implement programmes and projects for natural disaster management at the national and community levels with the full and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples.

63. This project, led by the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation and implemented by the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North and the UNEP Key Polar Centre, based in Arendal, Norway, is based on structured interviews with reindeer herders, hunters, fishers and gatherers in the Nenets and Kamchatka regions of the Arctic region of the Russian Federation. Knowledge was documented on extreme weather events such as blizzards and heavy fogs, as well as floods, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. The UNEP Key Polar

Centre has provided the project with results analysis, database and website development, and assisted the Association in completing the project report.[26]

64. The Arctic project is linked with a project on indigenous knowledge in disaster management in Africa.[27]

X. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum

65. The United Nations and UNEP will focus in the coming years on global warming and climate change issues. UNEP therefore recommends extending the climate change topic to the next session, including a focus on adaptation.

66. An additional important topic is indigenous peoples and their communities in pre-conflict and post-conflict situations.

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[26] http://www.raipon.org/ikdm/.

[27] http://www.unep.org/ik/.